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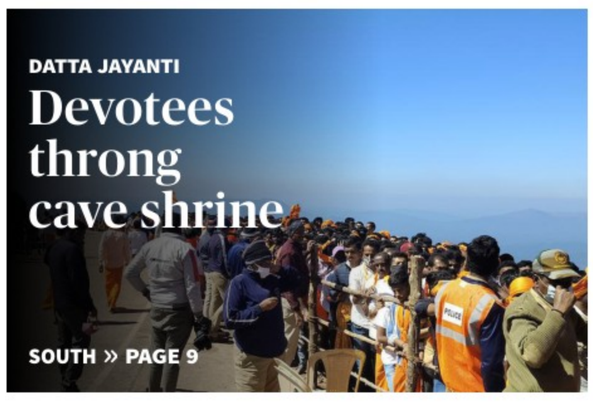
NO EXPLOSIVE RECOVERED

Blast-like sound heard near Israel Embassy

NEWS » PAGE 13



DATTA JAYANTI

Devotees throng cave shrine

SOUTH » PAGE 9

UKRAINE AIRSTRIKE

Russian naval ship in Crimea damaged

WORLD » PAGE 16

FORECAST

The outlook for 2024, for the world and India

India may face an inflection point

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

ANCHORING THE INNINGS

Rahul's unbeaten 70 takes India past 200

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

CM launches Yuva Nidhi

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday launched the registration of the fifth and final poll guarantee 'Yuva Nidhi' in Bengaluru, offering unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders. » Page 6

BSY was involved in ₹40,000 crore corruption: Yatnal

BELAGAVI/BENGALURU
Firing one more salvo at B.S. Yediyurappa, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has alleged that the BJP veteran was involved in a ₹40,000 crore scam during the COVID-19 wave. » Page 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Passengers of Nicaragua flight quizzed in Mumbai

Immigration, CBI officials interrogate them after the A340 aircraft, detained in France over human trafficking allegations and let off after four days, lands; they were from Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

After French authorities let it fly to India after four days of detention at the Vatry airport over allegations of human trafficking, an Airbus A340 aircraft of Romania Legend Airlines, carrying Indian passengers and originally destined for Nicaragua, landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here on Tuesday.

The flight landed around 3.30 a.m. with 15 crew members and 276 passengers, the airport officials said.

It took nearly five hours for most of the passengers to come out of the airport after clearing rigorous phases of interrogation and verification by the authorities from the Immigration Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation. A few were inside the airport till half past noon with baggage claim issues, an airport source said.

Days of drama: Passengers of the Airbus A340 of Romania Legend Airlines arrive in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Hiding their faces behind masks, hoodies and handkerchieves, the passengers were escorted by the airport staff in small batches. They exited through two arrival lobbies (P4 and P6), while most of the presspersons were told they would be arriving at the P6 point. Some of them took the transit bus towards the domestic terminal, and one or two had airport hotel pick-up.

The only communication from the passengers the press could manage to get was that some of them were from Punjab, some from Haryana and some from Gujarat. The male passengers were more in number.

The passengers refused to entertain questions from presspersons. Some turned hostile to questions on their experience, reasons for their travel, whether they knew each other, how were they kept during the interrogation period, and where are they from, to mention a few.

WHO ARRANGED JOURNEY?
» PAGE 12

Attackers of merchant vessels will be brought to justice soon: Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

"India's growing power has filled some forces with jealousy and hatred, and the perpetrators of the attacks on merchant vessels *Chem Pluto* and *Sai Baba* will soon be brought to justice," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday. He was speaking at the commissioning of the P-15B class stealth guided missile destroyer *INS Imphal*, the first warship to be named after a city in Northeast India, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

"India plays the role of a net security provider in the entire Indian Ocean Region. We will ensure that maritime trade in this region touches greater heights. For this, together with our friendly countries, we will keep the sea lanes secure," he said.

Ready to sail: *INS Imphal* anchored at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai after its commissioning on Tuesday. REUTERS

Mr. Singh said that with the Himalayas in the north and the hostile behaviour of Pakistan in the west, most of India's goods trade came through the sea, which made it an "island country from the trade perspective".

Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said the Navy had four destroyers of Project 15B and 15A class deployed to counter pirate and drone attacks. The P8I and Dornier aircraft, the Sea Guardian unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters, and Coast Guard ships were deployed to counter the threats.

INS Imphal is the third of four indigenous Visakhapatnam class destroyers, designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.

Seven-day home isolation must for COVID-19 patients

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the detection of 34 JN.1 cases, including three deaths, the State Cabinet sub-committee on COVID-19 has decided to impose mandatory seven-day home isolation for infected patients and monitor those in ICUs through Tele ICU.

Besides, sewage surveillance will be continued in Bengaluru and Mangaluru to track the spread.

Announcing this after chairing the first Cabinet sub-committee meeting on Tuesday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said doctors and health staff will visit the houses of the infected to monitor their health.

Availing leave

"Those infected with COVID-19 should isolate themselves at home for a week, if not required to be hospitalised. All those who are under home isolation and are working in government and private should be allowed to avail casual leave for a week, while those hospitalised should be given special leave for the hospitalisation period. Guidelines will be issued on this," the Minister said.

The meeting – attended by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, Health Commissioner Randeep D., COVID Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chairman K. Ravi and senior health officials – discussed measures to handle a possible surge in cases and hospitalisations, if any.

No restrictions

Asserting that the situation is not alarming, the Minister said the government will not impose any restrictions on New Year celebrations and gatherings as of now.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 2

Memories of a disaster

19th anniversary: Fisherfolk and others pay homage to the victims of the 2004 tsunami in Chennai on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Anti-militancy operations in Poonch enter sixth day

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

Security forces continued the anti-militancy operation in the Poonch-Rajouri sector in the Pir Panjal Valley for the sixth day on Tuesday, to trace those behind the December 21 attack that left four soldiers dead.

Officials said security forces, aided by helicopters and drones, continue to comb the dense forests and high peaks around Dera Ki Gali, the spot where two Army vehicles were ambushed by militants.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Railways spending big on PM's selfie booths: RTI reply; 'brazen waste of money', says Opposition

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Union government is spending up to ₹6.25 lakh on every permanent 3D selfie booth with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image at railway stations, says a reply obtained from Central Railway on a Right to Information (RTI) application.

Each temporary selfie booth costs ₹1.25 lakh.

In the reply to the application by Ajay Bose, a retired railway official, Abhay Mishra, Deputy General Manager, Central Railway, said the zone had installed or erected the selfie booths across 50 railway stations in Mumbai, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Pune and Solapur divisions.

On display: A selfie booth themed around the Chandrayaan Mission at the Madgaon railway station in Goa. PIB

Thirty Category A stations, including the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Kalyan, Nagpur and Betul, will have temporary installations, while 20 Category C stations, such as Karjat, Kasara, Latur, Kopargaon, have permanent installations.

The RTI reply further states that the Central Bureau of Communication functioning under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has approved "L1 rates" for the booths at ₹1.25 lakh for a temporary installation in each Category A station and ₹6.25 lakh for a permanent installation in each Category C station. This rate is exclusive of taxes, the reply adds.

This takes the total expenditure to ₹1.62 crore on temporary and permanent photo booths in Central Railway. Of this, up to ₹1.25 crore is for permanent photo booths and ₹37.5 lakh for setting up temporary ones.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Absolutely brazen waste of taxpayer's money by installing Modiji's 3D selfie points at railway stations. Modi government has not provided drought and flood relief to States. MGNREGA funds for Opposition-ruled States are also pending, but it has the audacity to generously splurge public money on these cheap election stunts."

In its reply to RTI query, the Tiruchchirappalli division of Southern Railway said the booths would be set up at 11 stations in its limits, including the Tiruchchirappalli Junction, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur Junction and Vellore Cantonment.

"Only one of the six divisions in Southern Railway replied to the RTI query," Mr. Bose said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

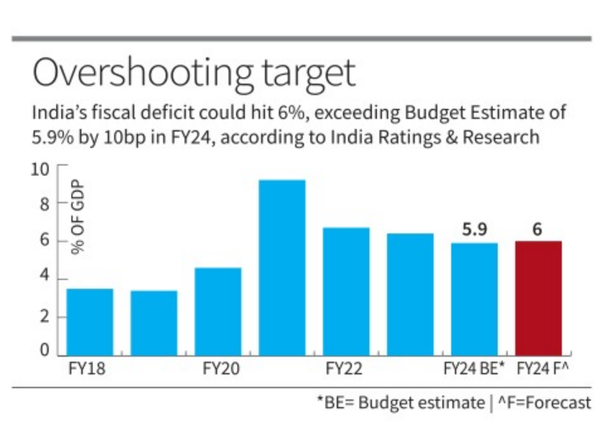
'India's fiscal deficit may breach 5.9% of GDP target'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit may breach the 5.9% of GDP target for this year and could hit 6%, though tax collections have been buoyant and may offset a wide shortfall in disinvestment outcomes, due to the likelihood of revenue spending exceeding the Budget Estimate by about ₹2 lakh crore, India Ratings and Research said on Tuesday.

The Union government has recently secured parliamentary approval for the first supplementary demand for grants this year, involving an additional cash outgo of ₹53,378 crore, lifting its total spending commitment for 2023-24 to ₹45.6 lakh crore, including about ₹35.6 lakh crore of revenue expenditure and ₹10.1 lakh crore of capital expenditure.

"However, India Ratings believes, like in the past, there will be a second supplementary demand for grants, as a result of which the revenue expenditure is expected to increase to ₹37.1 lakh crore, over ₹2 lakh crore higher than budgeted for the year," its economists noted.



CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

The Healy-Harmanpreet Polarisation

In India's Harmanpreet Kaur and Australia's Alyssa Healy, the women's cricket ecosystem has a rivalry that is dramatic and exciting and one that unites fans as much as it divides them

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

EMMANUAL YOGINI & GETTY

'This is cinema'. If you're a regular on social media platforms, the monochrome Martin Scorsese image with his hands up in silent contentment might be something you've seen.

This meme perfectly embodies the drama of the rivalry between Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her Australian counterpart Alyssa Healy.

Takes two to tango

Let's go back to February of this year. Chasing 173 to win in the T20 World Cup semifinal in Cape Town, Harmanpreet was batting on a gritty 33-ball 52. Georgia Wareham bowled full on the off stump and Harmanpreet got down to sweep along the ground. Beth Mooney dove to stop the ball in the deep and threw to Healy at the stumps who took off the bails in a split second. Collective gasps echoed through the stadium as it appeared that the Indian captain had not made it back in time, an unfortunate turn of events replays confirmed, with Harmanpreet's bat getting stuck while she tried to drag it back. OUT.

Australia edged India by five runs to make the final, something that had already left Indian fans heartbroken. But Healy's take on the incident a few minutes after the knockout clash rubbed salt in the Indian wounds.

"I mean Harmanpreet can say all she likes that it was so unlucky, but I mean at the end of the day she cruised back and probably could have passed the crease, you know, an extra two metres if she genuinely put in the effort. So we'll take it," Healy said in a video posted by ABC Sport.

Point to Healy.

December 2023. India hosted Australia in a Test match after emphatically demolishing England in the same format a few days prior. Healy's Australia was on the backfoot throughout the game. Looking to set India a competitive target, Healy and her vice captain Tahlia McGrath were going strong. Harmanpreet brought herself into the attack and removed McGrath in her first over. Four overs later, she tried to rattle Healy, who was looking dangerous and more importantly batting overs out and frustrating the Indian attack. Harmanpreet first went full, which Healy negotiated back in her direction. The Indian captain collected the ball and aggressively fired it back in Healy's direction who blocked it with her bat, with the ball running down third man for four. Harmanpreet was livid and looked in disbelief at the umpire, appealing for field obstruction. Healy's act in defence was deemed non-malicious and Harmanpreet was denied but the proceedings succeeded in shaking Healy's focus. She fell leg before to Harmanpreet off the very next bowl, with the latter staring her opposite number down as she took the long walk to the pavilion.

Point to Harmanpreet.

The big picture

"This is what happens when Australia plays India," Healy later said, brushing off talks of a rivalry between the duo. This even though there was a slightly frosty handshake shared between the two when India sealed victory.

Healy and Harmanpreet have more in common than what meets the eye. The first unifier is spirit. "I think that we're just two cricketers going at it. That's the way that I'd sum it up. She's obviously a passionate cricketer, so am I," Healy described.

Second is opportunity. Harmanpreet has been donning the leadership hat for a few years now but her career as a leader began under the shadow of Indian legend Mithali Raj. Healy, whose full-time captaincy career began with the Test loss to India, is also dealing with the challenges of a similar larger-than-life figure she finds herself following, the most successful captain in the history of the women's game - Meg Lanning.

In the women's vertical in cricket, India, England and Australia are evident superpowers evidenced by their rise and cyclical alternation between dominance and challenge. However, if you condense these sides down to the people who lead them, Heather Knight's hot and cold personal form internationally has allowed Healy and Harmanpreet to move one step forward and spar between themselves for supremacy, given the zing they bring into the flavours of their respective teams.

Two sides of a coin

Healy and Harmanpreet are cut from the same cloth but whose shades appear differently in the light. The latter has been known for her penchant to go all out in attack, something that set her apart from a classical conservativeness that Mithali was often known for. Healy is no different, something that comes through in how happy she is to get into the mind of her opponents from behind the stumps. However, she finds herself surrounded by mercurial characters, often mandating her to be the calm one. The image of her asking Grace Harris to calm down during the Women's Premier League comes to mind.

These different and ever evolving approaches to leadership, teams that are stacked with generational talents and a certain bloodlust give this Indo-Aussie a space of its own in women's cricket. Australia has been India's hardest hurdle many a time - be it in the T20 World Cup in 2020, the T20 World Cup in 2022 or even the Commonwealth Games. India and Harmanpreet know what it feels like to be denied.

On the other hand, Healy comes in with an overflowing trophy cabinet begging her to keep the flow of silverware coming. For a transitioning leadership setup, that is easier said than done. However, Healy is the master of optics. Her wit and wisecracks in pre-match pressers help her get into the mind of her adversaries, an itch Indian fans have often found themselves compulsively scratching.

The end product of this tussle is a rivalry that makes you watch from the edge of your seat, that makes you argue in your cricket watchalong groups, that makes you excited for an evolving game that's seeking to match the men's variant toe to toe.

With two ICC tournaments coming up in two years - the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh and the ODI World Cup in India - the Healy vs Harmanpreet tug of war might be just what the post-Lanning era needs. After one team swept every trophy there is to sweep, there is now a worthy challenger with a general who wants nothing but victory.

Grab your popcorn and gear up for the ride!

THE GIST

- Harmanpreet's stint as India Test captain got off to a dominant start with two back to back wins vs England and Australia. The latter's loss got Healy's full-time captaincy stint going with an opening defeat
- Healy's first taste of Australian captaincy came in 2022, when she was named stand-in skipper in Lanning's absence for a T20I series vs India. Australia won the five-match series 4-1, but she missed the last game due to a calf strain

Naveen Kumar conquers pain and a new milestone

Saikat Chakraborty
CHENNAI

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dabang Delhi KC roared back to life in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10, riding on the blistering raids of its talismanic captain, Naveen Kumar, to defeat Bengal Warriors 38-29. The victory not only revived its campaign but also saw Naveen etch his name in the PKL record books at the SDAT Multi-Purpose Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

The PKL 8 champions started the Chennai leg of PKL 10 on shaky ground, hovering near the bottom of the table with two wins and three losses. That perhaps explained why coach Rambhir Singh Khokar decided to field Naveen in the playing 7 despite his left hand being heavily taped due to a dislocated finger.

Nicknamed the 'Naveen Express', the 23-year-old had been warming the bench since December 11 due to his injury.

However, Delhi's 23-30 loss to Puneri Paltan triggered something in the raider from Sultanpur, Haryana. Showing no signs of ring rust, Naveen accumulated a staggering 11 raid points in 21 attempts, all while meticulously avoiding any pressure on his injured hand.

"The day I got my fingers dislocated, I started practising against the advice of the coach. I wanted to know how to keep the injured hand away. All coach sir told me was to stay in and motivate the players and avoid injury," Naveen revealed after the game.

With Naveen holding one end up, the team rose to help him in unison. High-fives from Ashish and Yogesh, coupled with Mohit's four crucial points, fuelled the team's defensive unit.

Bengal's muscle man, its captain Maninder Singh, was always kept under control with 'Mighty Mani' spending over 10 minutes off the mat. Maninder waged a lone battle, helping Bengal (19 raid points) stay ahead of Delhi's 15, but the latter's 17 tackle points compared to Bengal's nine was enough to seal the win.

Naveen's exceptional performance went beyond the final score; it marked a historic milestone. With his 11 raid points, he reached the coveted 1000-raid-point mark in PKL history, becoming the fastest player to achieve this feat.

Like fish to water

Kabaddi sometimes thrusts mammoth responsibilities on young shoulders - a true 'perform or perish' sport which makes or breaks talents.

Coach Khokar rightly points out that not all great raiders make great captains but Naveen's comfort in being in command will leave the coach delighted.

How he handed his overenthusiastic teammate Vishal Bhardwaj, who has more experience than him, when he was having a go at Bengal's Shrikant Yadhav during a team review showed his leadership quality. "A brilliant raider doesn't need to be a good captain, but Naveen is both. He's leading the young squad with example and love," Khokhar said.

That said, Naveen is a raider -- who has had to grow up fast, given how he's been the lifeline of this side since 2018 -- has not lost his childlike wonder and innocence. While coach Khokar praises him effusively, he's seated there pressing his guru's leg to keep the adulation short and joking around with the media.

With the win in the bag, the automatic next question was how the hand was coming along and if Naveen has earned more time to rest.

"Zyada kuch nahin, bas dislocation hua hai (it's just a dislocation, nothing big)," Naveen said. "You saw me out there, I am fine. We'll keep performing well," he added with a smile. While it's still early stages of the league, if the leader is anything to go by, Delhi can rest easy as it looks towards securing a spot in the playoffs.

RT-PCR rates at private healthcare centres to be fixed in two days

Health Minister says during this outbreak, CT thorax scan should not be used as screening test for COVID-19, and that necessary instructions in this regard will be issued by Health Department soon. Fixing the rate for COVID treatment is not being considered in view of low number of admissions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will set up a committee of experts headed by the State Health Director to fix a price ceiling for COVID-19 RT-PCR, Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) and other related testing at private healthcare facilities.

Following this, rates for these services in the private sector will be announced within two days, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Addressing presspersons, Health Minister says the government will ensure people are not exploited by private health facilities. FILE PHOTO

No more exploitation

Addressing presspersons after chairing the first meeting of the State Cabinet sub-committee on COVID, the Minister said the government will ensure people are not exploited by the private health facilities.

"During this outbreak, CT thorax scan should not be used as screening test for COVID-19. Necessary instructions in this regard will be issued by Health Department soon," he said.

Replying to queries, he said fixing the rate for COVID treatment in private hospitals is presently not being considered in view of the low number of admissions.

"A proposal for hiring additional human resources for a period of six months to activate ICUs in taluk and district hospitals, medical college hospitals will be prepared and submitted to the government," he said.

Vaccination, flu shots

Pointing out that those who have not taken the precautionary doses can choose to get jabbed now, the Minister said, "We will write to the Centre seeking 30,000 doses of Corbevax. Senior citizens and those with comorbidities will be immunised on priority." It has also been decided to administer flu shots to all health workers in hospitals under the Health and Medical education departments. These vaccines will be purchased based on the requirement, he added.

Two more COVID deaths reported; 74 new cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State on Tuesday reported two more COVID deaths – one each in Dakshina Kannada and Mysuru. With this, the total number of deaths since December 15 has touched nine and the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) touched 2.70%.

SARI patients

Two 51-year-old male patients diagnosed with SARI in Dakshina Kannada and Mysuru succumbed to the illness on December 23 and 25. While both had hypertension, one had Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and another had suffered a Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA) in the past.

With 74 new cases, the total number of active cases touched 464 on Tuesday.

TPR 1.15%

As many as 6,403 tests were done in the last 24 hours of which 4,680 were RT-PCR test. With this, the test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 1.15%. Of the 464 active patients, 41 are being treated in hospitals and 16 of these are under intensive care.

BMTC inducts 100 e-buses in city; to add 1,400 more by April

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inducting electric buses in the BMTC fleet, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Questioning the BJP for not introducing pro-people schemes during its rule, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that so far about 120 crore women have travelled in State transport corporation buses since the launch of Shakti, the scheme of free bus travel for women.

"About 40 lakh women belonging to all castes, communities and economic class travel free in BMTC buses daily. The BJP is criticising the free ride scheme for women. Why did they not bring this pro-people scheme when they were in power?" the Chief Minister said during a programme to induct 100 electric buses in the BMTC fleet in Bengaluru on December 26. The BMTC will get 1,400 electric buses by April 2024.

The CM said that due to guarantee schemes, the purchasing power of people has increased and economic activities in the State have increased. "The labourers, women, and farmers are saving a lot of money through these schemes and are using the savings for other household expenses. The economic condition of lakhs of families has improved."

He pointed out that 4.30 crore people in Karnataka are directly benefitting from the guarantee schemes, and these people are being brought to the economic mainstream.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that while lakhs of families have been made economically independent, the BJP is criticising the schemes.

Newly inducted bus breaks down

The breakdown of a newly inducted electric bus near Maharani College underpass on the inaugural day took social media by storm. At around 2.06 p.m., the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) on their official X account, said that there was slow-moving traffic near Maharani College Underpass towards Mysuru Bank circle due to the breakdown of a BMTC bus. "That is the super new EV bus,already broken on maiden ride," a social media user commented. However, Sathyavathi G., MD, BMTC, said that it was just a minor issue of brakes getting jammed and not a breakdown. "Since the driver was new, he did not know how to release the lever of the brake which was jammed. It was figured out very shortly and then the bus was moving," she told *The Hindu*.

Pharmacists direct customers seeking COVID-19 self-test kits to hospitals

Surabhi Gorebal
BENGALURU

As COVID-19 is back in the news with the emergence of the JN.1 variant, the demand for self-test kits has increased in Bengaluru. However, instead of selling these kits to the customers, pharmacies are redirecting them to hospitals to help with record keeping of positive cases.

A manager at a pharmacy on Brigade Road said that the demand for self-test kits was around 200 per day. He also said that most pharmacies were not maintaining that kind of stock.

"There has been a notable uptick in the demand for self-test kits. But, if we encounter customers exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms seeking medications, we are directing such individuals to nearby hospitals rather than dispensing medication directly," he said.

Since the earlier waves of COVID-19, the government had mandated pharmacies to maintain records of the persons they sold the kit to and also details of the results of the test. After purchasing the kits, most customers do not come back to update the results, the pharmacists said.

"At pharmacies which are tied to hospitals, self-test kits are not given without a prescription from the physicians. Hence, the follow-up becomes easier. That is why we advise people to go there," said Ravindra Kumar M.J., State Secretary, Karnataka Chemists and Distributors Association.

The pharmacists also noted that, unlike the previous waves, there is no sense of panic among people to buy COVID-related medical supplies like thermometers, pulse-oxymeters, and paracetamol tablets. "Around 20% of customers are aware and responsible this time, others are not caring much," Mr. Kumar said.

With many educational institutions and private companies making it compulsory for students and employees to wear face masks, the sales of the same has slightly increased in Bengaluru.

M.K. Mayanna, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Chemists and Druggists Association said, "There have been a few inquiries for masks and sanitizers, but the demand is not as pronounced as it was during the peak of the pandemic." He clarified that the lower demand could be attributed to the absence of reported cases in Bengaluru.

Two killed, three injured in road accident in Nelamangala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed and three others severely injured when a speeding car rammed into a lorry that was parked by the roadside, on the outskirts of the city in Nelamangala on Tuesday morning.

Manjunath, 55, a resident of Chunchanaghatta, Kanakpura Road, had been on a trip to Kundapura with his wife Hemalatha and two children Kruthika and Prajwal over the long weekend. They were returning home Tuesday early morning, starting Monday night from Kundapura.

Less than an hour away from home, near NICE Road Toll Gate, Madavara, the car driver Naveen, 34, rammed the car into a parked lorry by the roadside. The impact of the collision was so big that the car was mangled. The car driver Naveen and Manjunath who sat next to him were killed on the spot, even as Hemalatha and her two children sitting at the back have sustained severe injuries.

Police said that there was dense fog Tuesday morning and the visibility was very low.

The driver was driving all night and that may have also impacted his alertness and rammed the car into a parked lorry, police said. Nelamangala Traffic Police have now registered a case against the lorry driver who had parked the lorry there for causing death due to negligence.

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(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
"ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ ಭವನ", 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಸುಬೇದಾರ್ ಛತ್ರಂ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560020

Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"KMDC Bhavan", 2nd Floor, S.C. Road, Seshadaripuram, Bengaluru-560020

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಅನಿ/ಟೆಂ/ಕೊ.ಬಾ/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22/12/2023

ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಯಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಗಂಗಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 165 ಮೀ.ಮೀ ವ್ಯಾಸದ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು "ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಹಣವಿಲ್ಲ" ಎಂಬ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊರೆಯಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

Sl No	Packages	Districts	No. of Borewells	Estimated Cost	EMD 1.5%
1	1	BANGALORE (R), KOLAR & RAMANAGARAM	119	₹ 2,66,32,928.87	₹ 3,99,494
2	2	MANDYA, CHAMARAJNAGAR, MYSORE & KODAGU	217	₹ 2,37,81,149.77	₹ 3,56,717
3	3	CHICKBALLAPUR, CHITRADURGA, TUMKUR & HASSAN	193	₹ 3,18,19,571.66	₹ 4,77,294
4	4	DAVANGERE, SHIMOGA, UDUPI & CHICKMAGALUR	233	₹ 3,05,91,048.27	₹ 4,58,866
5	5	DAKSHINA KANNADA	210	₹ 2,34,89,501.70	₹ 3,52,343
6	6	KALBURGI & BIDAR	285	₹ 3,18,26,976.96	₹ 4,77,405
7	7	BAGALKOTE, VIJAYAPURA & YADGIR	216	₹ 3,18,48,049.20	₹ 4,77,721
8	8	RAICHUR, KOPPAL & BELLARY	248	₹ 2,92,78,911.92	₹ 4,39,184
9	9	GADAG & DHARWAD	196	₹ 2,93,52,097.42	₹ 4,40,281
10	10	BELGAUM	251	₹ 3,49,78,381.10	₹ 5,24,676
11	11	UTTARA KANNADA & HAVERI	210	₹ 2,83,83,828.20	₹ 4,25,757

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾದ ಅರ್ಹತೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿಧಾನ, ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊರೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#portal/portal-home. ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 080-22864782 ಅಥವಾ gkv.kmdc@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22860999 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-01-2024, 17.30 ಗಂಟೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-01-2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-01-2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ (ನಿ), ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ ಭವನ, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560020.

ಸಹಿ/-
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/2707/ಆಕಾರ್/2023-24 ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No: 09 MYS 2023-24
Dated: 20-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Spring inserted Reusable Size Nut **(Tender No. L9236461)**	Rs. 33,49,795.80

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 22-01-2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/589/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have entered into agreement to sell, to purchase Residential Cum Commercial Immovable Property bearing BBMP Municipal New No.9, situated at 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002, having PID No.47-120-9, Coming under BBMP Dharmaraya Swamy Temple New Ward No.119, (old BBMP Ward No.47), consists of Land and old RCC building thereon, as described below in the schedule, from **1. Smt. T. E. JAYALAKSHMI,** Daughter of Late. T. Ekanthappa, Wife of Sri. Bhojaraj .R, **2. Smt. B. SUMITHRAMMA,** Wife of Late. Srinivas T. E., Daughter in law of Late. T. Ekanthappa, **3. Smt. CHANDRA KALA .S,** Wife of Late. Kumar, Daughter in law of Late. T. Ekanthappa, and **4. Sri. T. E. JANARDHAN,** Son of Late. T. Ekanthappa, all are residing at BBMP Door No.9, 13 th Cross, Opp to Briyani Bazar, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002. Any person/s who has/have any valid claim, title, demand or interest over the said property or any objections to the purchase of the said property, by my clients may file his/her objections in writing, along with copies of the supporting documents, with the undersigned within **TEN DAYS** from this day. Failing which, it will be deemed that no other person/s has/have any claim, demand, interest or title in the said property, by way of previous agreement to sell or sale or otherwise or objections to the purchase of the said property by my clients and my clients will complete the sale, as if there is no such claim/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential cum Commercial Immovable Property bearing **BBMP Municipal New No.9,** situated at **13 th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002**, having **PID No.47-120-9,** Coming under BBMP Dharmaraya Swamy Temple New Ward No.119, (old BBMP Ward No.47), Consists of Land measuring East to West **36 feet** (11 meters) and North to South **38.25** feet (11.66 meters) amounts to 1377 Square feet + East to West **25.5 feet** (8 meters) and North to South **10.75** feet (3 meters) 274.12 Square feet, in total **1651.12** square feet (153.39 square meters) and old RCC building thereon Ground floor measuring 1650 Square Feet and First floor measuring 1650 Square feet, with Red oxide flooring, with Jungle wood doors & windows, with all the civic amenities such as electricity, water and sewerage and bounded on :

East by : **13 th Cross** & Private Property No.8, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property No.10/1 and South by : Private Property.

S.C. THILOKCHAND,
DHIRAJ KUMAR JAIN, Advocates
Sakalajee Market, Avenue Road,
Bengaluru - 560 002.
Phone: 2221 0751 Mob: 98452 55592
Place: Bengaluru Date: 26-12-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.Azam Emmar S/o Mohammed Rafi**, 40, 1st cross, Anjinappa 2nd phase, Sangam Enclave extension, Kothanur, Bangalore-77.called as PURCHASER, is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri Chandrashekhar S/o.Late. Krishnaiah Achary**, any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

(1) Land bearing New Sy No.8/6 (old Sy No.8/3), measuring an Extent of 00.15 Guntas with 0.01 Gunta B Kharab and bounded on the **East by:** Land Belongs to Chikkanna, **West by:** Kodihalla, **North by :** Land in Sy No. 8/2 & **South by :** Land in Sy No. 8/7 and **(2)** Land bearing New Sy No. 8/7(old Sy No.8/4) , measuring an Extent of 00.09 Guntas with 0.01 Gunta B Kharab land (out of 1 Acre 12 Guntas with 0.04 Guntas Kharab) and bounded on the **East by:** Remaining portion of the land belonging to Rudramma, **West by :** Kodihalla, **North by :** Land in Sy No. 8/6, **South by :** Remaining portion of the land belonging to Rudramma [both extent of land situated at **Kamaluru village Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District]**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **James Jacob, Sushy George, and Jacob Mathew,** called as PURCHASERS, are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Y.R. Janardhana Rao, Ramesh Y.J., & M/s Pariwar Housing Corporation** ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Immovable property bearing No 8, Kannamangala Grama Panchayat Khatha No.23/08, E Khata No. 150300200400820188 in the layout formed in Land bearing Sy.Nos 24/1, 26/2, 34/2, 35, 36/1 and 37/1 of Jogahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore and Final Release order bearing No BIAAPA/TPO1/LAO/18/2016-17/869 and 100% Released Plan bearing No.BIAAPA/TP/LAO/18/2016-17, measuring East to West :9.14 Mtr. (30Feet) and North to South : 15.24 Mtr. (50 Feet) totally measuring 139.29 Sq. Mtr. (1500 Square Feet) and bounded on the East by : Plot No 7, West by : Plot No 9, North by : Survey No 27, South by : Road

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
CORRIGENDUM
Tender No:- SNT-Proj.-JP-2023-24-08
Name of the work :- "Provision of OFC (48 Fibre) Laying in connection with Kavach (TCAS) on low density network over North Western Railway. (Total 1330 Kms.)." over North Western Railway. In Tender Notice No.SG/DyCSTE/Proj/SNT-Proj.-JP-2023-24-08 dated 11.12.2023 1. **"Correction made in Tender Document which is available at ireps.gov.in"** Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
Dy. CSTE/PROJECT/JAIPUR
1332-CQ/23
Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1. Mr.TADIGOTLA AMARNATH REDDY,** Aged about 48 Years, S/o. Mr.T.Eswar Reddy, **2. Mr.TADIGOTLA SREENIVASA REDDY,** Aged about 43 Years, S/o. Mr.T.Eswar Reddy, **3. Mr.TADIGOTLA MADHU SUDHAN REDDY,** Aged about 41 Years, S/o. Mr.T.Eswar Reddy, All are Residing at: No10-55,Gangaya Palli, Vallur, Cuddapah, Andra Pradesh- 516293 have enter in to a sale agreement with its owner **Mr. AMRUTH REDDY,** Aged about 34 Years, S/o. Mr. Prakash Reddy, Residing at: No.265, Rama Temple Road, New Thippasandra, Bangalore -560075 in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Site No.67, Khatha No.83/1, Old Khatha No.426/1-A, formed out of Property No.81/3 & Property No. 83/4, Situated at **Doddanekundi Village, Marathahalli Hobli previously K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** Now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Bangalore, Ward No.85, Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally Measuring **1200 Square feet,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bonded by:-

East by : Site No.64,
West by : 25 Feet wide Road
North by : Site No.68, Khatha No.426/1-A,
South by : Site No.66,
Along with 1000 Square Feet of Ground Floor and 1000 Square feet of First floor and 1000 Square feet of Second Floor and 1000 Square feet of Third Floor of RCC roofed Building, constructed with Hollow Bricks and cement, Mosaic/Vitrified flooring, Honne wood doors and windows, electricity and water connection with all civic amenities along.

T.RAMESH KUMAR &
MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank,
Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram,
Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 26-12-2023

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No. 43/2023 Dated: 21-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
1	L8236959	Brake control system including driver's vigilance control device as per CLW SPEC NO. CLW/MS/3/001/ALT-17. Note- Brake control system to be supplied in SET- I & SET-2 Make:KNORR BREMSE **Qty-02 Sets.**	11-01-2024
2	L8236709A	Traction Transformer complete with accessories (cooling unit/pump etc.,) including electrical wiring harness along with Harting connectors in the marshalling box as per approved GA drawing of ICF suitable for 3-PHASE MEMU propulsion system as per RDSO Specification No.RDSO/PE/SPEC/EMU/0096-2008 (rev 4 or latest) for 3-Phase MEMU DMCs **Qty-01 No.**	15-01-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/590/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

High Court of Karnataka
High Court Buildings, Bengaluru-1
HCC No. 58/2023 Date: 22.12.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under Phase-III of e-Courts project, the High Court of Karnataka, invites tenders for Procurement of 1031 Nos. of 40 PPM Scanners to the Courts covered under Phase-I and Phase-II of e-Courts Project through e-Procurement portal of Centre for e-Governance, Bengaluru. The last date to upload the tender is fixed as **10.01.2024 at 4.00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender /live website.**

(N. G. Dinesh)
Registrar (Computers) and
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/DD-C.P/2705/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
"NAAC" Accredited with 'A' Grade-2022
"University with Potential for Excellence"
Students Welfare Section **Ph : No. 0836-2215216/2215200**
directorswkud@gamil.com
Ref.No. :KU/DSW/2023-24/429 Date : 26.12.2023

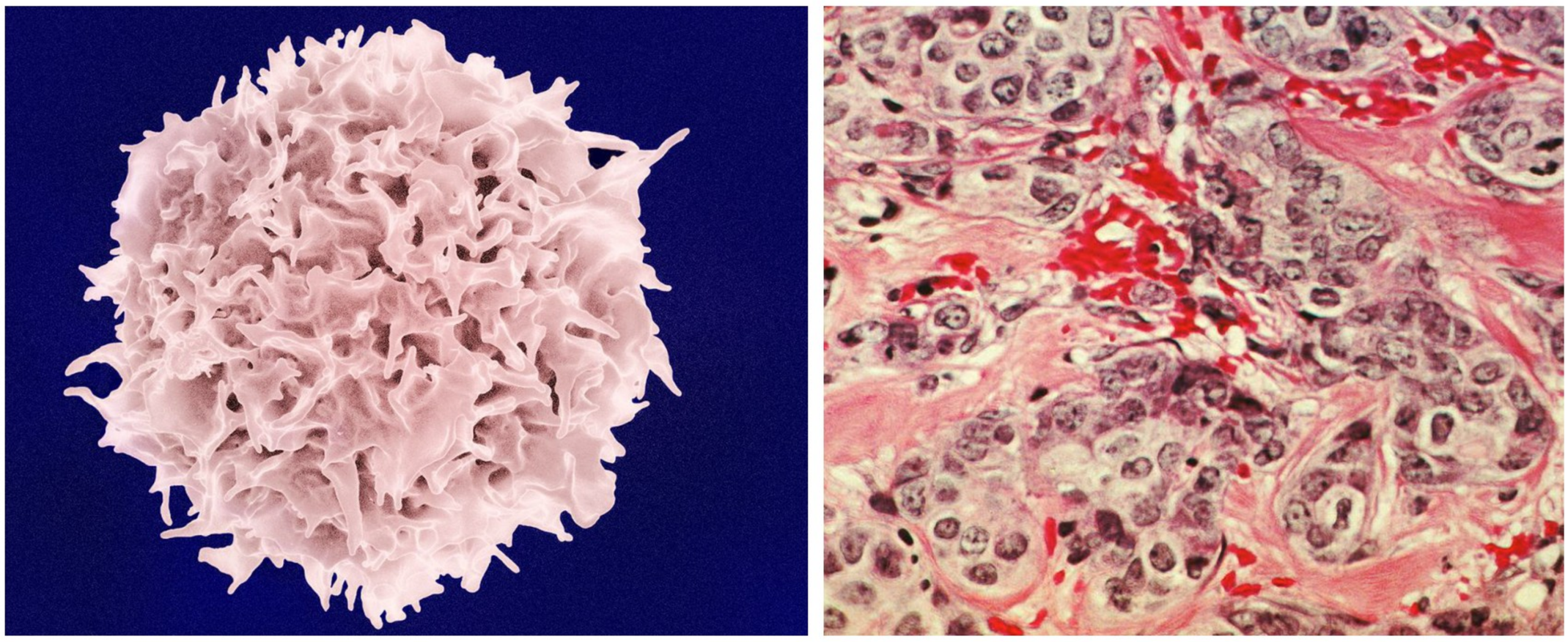
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
THIRD CALL

Full time tender is called from the food caterers to prepare and supply food for the period of 11 months to the students residing in various boys and girls hostels under. the purview of Karnataka University.

Sl. No.	Details for submission applications	Date and Time
1	Date of start of submitting applications	27.12.203 17.00 hrs
2	Last date for the submission of application	10.01.2024 17.05 hrs
3	Opening of Technical Bid	11.01.2024 17.00 hrs
4	Opening of Financial Bid	16.01.2024 15.05 hrs

Note : For more information please visit https:/www.kud.ac.in website or contact, Director, Student's Welfare Section telephone 0836-2215200 during office hours.

Sd/- Registrar
K.U. Dharwad



A colourised scanning micrograph of a t-lymphocyte cell. NIAID; (right) a histological slide of cancerous breast tissue magnified 200x. The pink "riverways" are normal connective tissue. NCI/NIH

What incentives do scientists have to study rare diseases?

The 2024 Breakthrough Prizes laureates demonstrate the cutting-edge ways scientists are making use of basic science to improve the quality of human lives. But they also highlight systemic, non-scientific factors that influence what scientists choose to study and who gets to access the fruits of their labour

Nandita Jayaraj

Founded by the millennial world's most famous billionaires, the Breakthrough Prizes may not yet rival the Nobel Prizes in prestige, but the so-called "Oscars of Science" do offer three-times as much prize money. The 2024 prizes in the Life Sciences category recognised groundbreaking research set to change the lives of those suffering from three debilitating diseases: Parkinson's disease, cystic fibrosis, and cancer.

These discoveries, along with the contexts and controversies surrounding them, exemplify the state of cutting-edge medical biology today.

"There are about 7,000 known rare diseases, affecting around 8% of the world's population" and "75% of rare disease patients [are] children," according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Despite these sobering numbers, there is little research under way on rare diseases.

Relatively few people are diagnosed with these diseases, so most drug-makers and pharmaceutical companies are unwilling to invest money in them. The result: many of these diseases continue to be poorly understood while treatment and cures remain elusive.

Despite the odds, some scientists doggedly pursue research into rare diseases. Ellen Sidransky, a clinical geneticist at the U.S. National Institutes of Science, is one of them. For more than 25 years, she has been studying Gaucher disease, an inherited metabolic disorder affecting one in 57,000 people worldwide. It has also been reported in India. Dr. Sidransky however, won the Breakthrough Prize for her work on Parkinson's disease.

A 'high-profile' condition

"Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disorder," Krishna Deepak, a computational biologist at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, said. "It happens when the neurons in the part of the brain that controls motor function and has impacts on cognition and other bodily functions start dying off."

The reason for this neuronal cell death is a pile-up of protein aggregates that resist being cleared up. This is bad news because unlike other cells in the body, neurons aren't replenished as readily. Before long, physiological symptoms turn up. "An affected individual's arms will violently shake even while trying to do basic stuff like picking up a pen," said Dr. Deepak, describing tremors, a characteristic symptom of Parkinson's.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than 8.5 million individuals are currently living with Parkinson's - meaning it's not a rare disease. While it is most frequently diagnosed in a person after they turn 60, sometimes it develops earlier. Hollywood actor Michael J. Fox, who starred in hit films such as *Back to the Future*, was diagnosed at just 29. He has since become the most recognisable face of advocacy and fundraising for Parkinson's.

Being a high-profile disease means there is more research on it as well. For some time, we have known that Parkinson's arises due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors. But there's no cure or effective treatment for the affected, beyond symptomatic, and usually temporary, relief.

While studying patients with Gaucher disease, Dr. Sidransky discovered a mutation in a known gene, called GBA1, which strongly indicated whether an individual would develop Parkinson's. For this finding, she shared a Breakthrough Prize with Thomas Gasser and Andrew Singleton, who independently identified another risk gene, LRRK2.

Dr. Sidransky frequently uses her own example to assert that research into rare disorders must be supported because it can lead to insights for the wider population. In a 2020 lecture, the former paediatrician reminded her audience that the discovery of the risk gene GBA1 was a serendipitous outcome of her research on Gaucher disease. "I want to be a cheerleader for research into rare diseases," she said.

Knowing what to fix

Dr. Deepak confirmed that identifying risk genes of a disease can be tremendously meaningful. "Once you identify a correlation between a genetic mutation and a disease, you can - essentially - predict the likelihood of a person developing the disease."

He pointed to the example of breast cancer and the BRCA1 genes to illustrate how this knowledge can empower those at risk. "Imagine if as soon as a child is delivered, the hospital has to do a genetic screening," he said. "Or someone in the family has the disease so you test a child for the disease risk gene on their 10th birthday. If you find it, you know what to expect. You can check up regularly, and if an early diagnosis is made, then for diseases like breast cancer, there is a very good success rate with treatment. The person can have a good quality of life going forward".

The benefits don't end there.

> There are about 7,000 known rare diseases, affecting around 8% of the world's population

Identifying risk genes can also offer a wealth of information about a disease's mechanism. For example, both GBA1 and LRRK2 are involved in preventing protein aggregate build-ups in the brain. "If you want to fix something, you need to know where to fix it," he continued. "Now that we know some of the genes that are involved, we have a target. With gene-editing techniques like CRISPR becoming established, we can see therapeutics on the horizon maybe in 10 or 20 years."

This prediction starts to look more realistic together with the second Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences announced this year.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening rare disease that affects around a lakh people worldwide. Dr. Deepak painted a visceral picture of its effects: "When you have a runny nose, the mucus is thin and watery, so it can flow, right? Now imagine the exact opposite. Thick mucus filling your lungs and digestive tract till you can't breathe or function normally."

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited condition caused by mutations in a single gene, CFTR, that regulates just how thick or fluid the mucus is. This vital information about the disease mechanism and the gene responsible became a shot in the arm for researchers working on therapeutic options. Still, it being a rare disease, progress was slow. Since the discovery of the CFTR gene in 1989, patients of the disease – many of them children – have been waiting with bated breath for a cure.

A miracle, but not quite

To be fair, there were a few options, but it took 30 years for something truly promising - when a drug called Trikafta was approved for use in the U.S. in 2019. The development of this drug won Sabine Hadida, Paul Negulescu, and Fredrick Van Goor, researchers at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, a Breakthrough Prize this year.

"In cystic fibrosis, the CFTR protein misfolds and becomes unable to function," Dr. Deepak explained. Trikafta, he added, is a combination of three drugs that together ensure the protein can fold into its proper conformation, travel to the cell surface, and function as it should."

Effective in 90% of patients, Trikafta has been called a "blockbuster combination drug" and "the biggest lifeboat for cystic fibrosis yet". "[T]his level of success in treating a disease is a fantastic achievement," Dr. Deepak, who comes from a drug discovery background himself, said.

He recalled being taught that cystic fibrosis was fatal. "To see that it has been cured in my lifetime is quite incredible."

So a happy ending for the 1.6 lakh people estimated to be living with the disease? Not yet. There is a tragic catch: Vertex has priced the drug at $326,000 (Rs 2.71 crore) a year and is also blocking low-cost versions, rendering it virtually impossible for people in developing countries like India from accessing Trikafta.

This led to the 'Right to Breathe' campaign led by a global community of cystic fibrosis-affected families based in, among other countries, India, South Africa, Ukraine, and Brazil. The vast majority of cystic fibrosis patients "are being left to suffer and die without treatment, simply because a company cares about nothing other than profit," they protest on their website.

A tug of war

Vertex isn't the first big pharma company to have faced such a charge. In 2019, regulators approved a cure for spinal muscular atrophy called Zolgensma, made by Novartis. It's a single injection that can spare infants a painful, and often shortened, life. The problem: Zolgensma is only available for Rs 18 crore.

'Right to Breathe' campaigners believe they have a strong case because the company benefited from significant funding from a cystic fibrosis patient advocacy group in its early days. They contend that Vertex thus has no excuse to restrict patients from accessing the drug.

Big pharma's justification for exorbitant pricing is that this is the only way to recoup the billions they've invested in developing the drug. "Traditional drug discovery processes take anywhere between seven to 20 years, and sometimes you put in all that and nothing comes out of it," Dr. Deepak said. "So for the process to work, a company has to stay in the market, not go bankrupt, and keep on investing in research and development for all this time."This is something that bothers me - this tug-of-war between doing what is right and business interests."Some therapies have had more success with this tug-of-war. In October 2023, CAR-T cell therapy, a cutting-edge treatment for cancer first approved in the U.S. in 2017, was approved for use in India. The American version cost Rs 3.3 crore whereas an indigenous version developed by ImmunoACT, a company incubated at IIT Bombay, costs one-tenth as much.

A cure for cancer?

CAR-T cell therapy is a novel way of fighting cancer. "You take a T cell from a person, engineer it to target the cancer specific signal, and put it back in the system," Dr. Deepak explained. "It will proliferate and the engineered T-cells will destroy every cancer cell it encounters." The therapy has been shown to be effective even a decade after treatment, "so it's like a living drug that continues to offer protection, as long as it's still there."

For developing CAR-T, American scientists Carl June and Michel Sadelain received the third Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences this year.

While it's indeed a breakthrough, Dr. Deepak cautioned that the therapy is still primarily for "liquid cancers" such as blood cancers. "A vast majority of cancers are actually solid tumours. We still need a way of targeting those, and research is ongoing in that direction."

And again, a single regimen of CAR-T cell therapy costs Rs 30-40 lakh, and out of reach of most Indians. It does, however, demonstrate how much we stand to gain by promoting indigenous research.

Dr. Deepak rued that most South Asian countries rely on the U.S. or European countries for fundamental discoveries and to unearth drug candidates, even though Western priorities are usually aligned with those of Caucasian populations. "I think governments, even in developing nations, can do more," he said. "Even if we put in a little more money into basic research, we can have a better understanding of most diseases."

The 2024 Breakthrough Prizes laureates demonstrate the cutting-edge ways scientists are making use of basic science to improve the quality of human lives. But they also highlight systemic, non-scientific factors that influence what scientists choose to study and who gets to access the fruits of their labour. "I wish scientists could just go in with an open mind and explore diseases for the sake of humanity, rather than being driven by market dynamics," Dr. Deepak said with a sigh. "But maybe that's too much to expect."Yet he remains optimistic: "The breakthroughs may inspire other researchers to look closely at systems they are working on through new lenses, or take up the cause of neglected and understudied disease targets."

(Nandita Jayaraj is a Mangaluru-based science writer and co-author of Lab Hopping 2023.)

(L-R) Jenny Do, Ellen Sidransky, and Bahafta Berhe on May 13, 2019. ERNESTO DEL AGUILA, NIH

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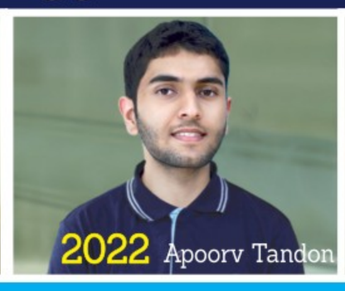

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Contractual teachers given employee status: Bihar govt.

3.5 in lakh. Bihar cabinet decided to give government employee status to contractual teachers. They have to clear competency examinations to continue the status of a government employee. PTI

Applications approved by the government under the PLI scheme

746 The applications were approved till November under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for 14 sectors, according to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. PTI

Number of candidates to file nominations for Pakistan elections

28,626 The February 8 elections will be held for 1,085 National Assembly seats and four Provincial Assembly seats. PTI

Number of Indians returning from French airport

276 Legend Airlines' A340 was grounded in France for four days over suspected human trafficking. In the fiscal year 2023, 96,917 Indians attempted illegal entry into the United States. PTI

Number of Fog PASS devices deployed by Railways

19,700 Fog PASS devices are helping loco pilots operate trains with minimal disruptions. PTI

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Are graduates facing unemployment?

What historical patterns or socio-economic changes might have contributed to the consistently higher unemployment rates among highly educated individuals in India since the 1990s? How does the rise in the percentage of graduates in the labour force impact the unemployment rates and the job market?

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

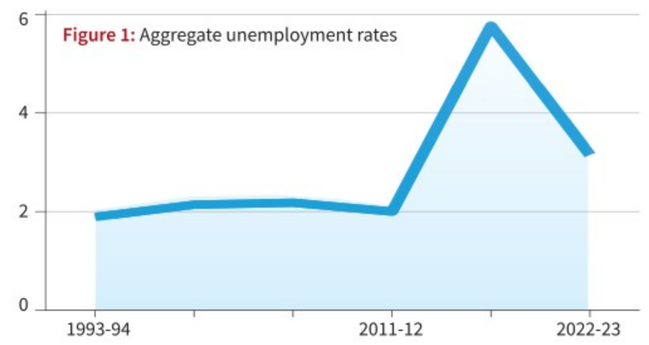
In 1932, the famous engineer and statesman M Visvesvaraya pointed to the high prevalence of unemployment amongst the educated, pointing out that "... the educated men of this country...[are} suffering most from lack of employment." Ninety years later, the actions of those involved in the Parliament breach have brought the question of youth unemployment to the fore once more. While Rahul Gandhi holds the present government responsible for rising youth unemployment, official data seems to indicate the opposite. The unemployment rate, which hit a high of 6.1% in 2017-18, has reduced to 3.2% in 2022-23, according to the latest data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

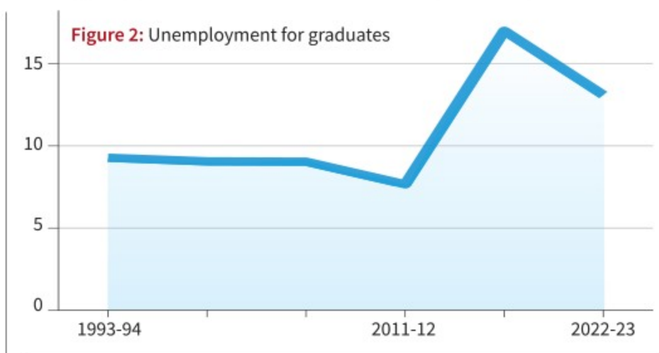
Even though unemployment rates are low and have been falling since 2017-18, there exist significant disparities in the experience of unemployment. The highest rates of unemployment are faced by those who should face bright prospects in a growing economy: young highly educated workers. This is not a problem that has arisen recently but seems to be a structural feature of the Indian economy. The economy faces problems in generating employment for young graduates, with the situation exacerbating in recent years.

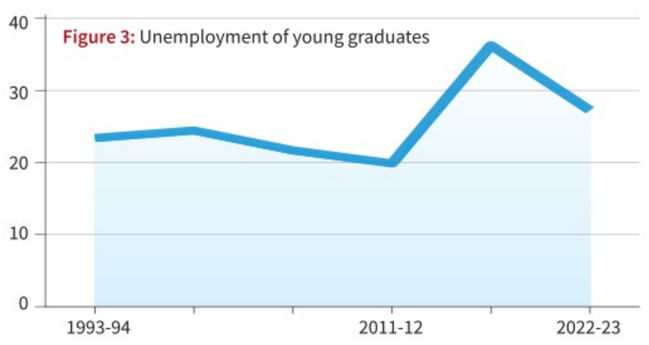
This analysis looks at employment data from the 50th Round of the NSSO surveys - covering the period 1993-94 - to the PLFS surveys of 2022-23. Workers are classified according to the UPSS, which classifies individuals as employed or unemployed based on their labour force activity over the previous year. This analysis only focuses on individuals aged 18 to 65.

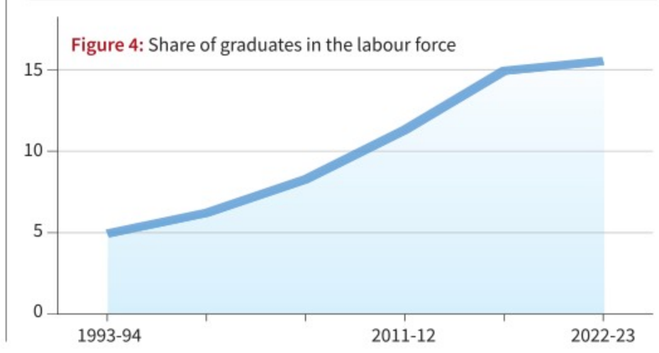
Career disparity

Persistent high unemployment among educated Indian youth reveals structural challenges in job creation despite overall declining unemployment rates









Education and unemployment

Figure 1 outlines the unemployment rates for the aggregate labour force of individuals aged 18 to 65. Unemployment rates had always been low since the early 1990s, jumping to a historical high of 5.77% in 2017-18. By 2022-23, the unemployment rate showed signs of reducing, falling to 3.15% for this cohort. While unemployment rates are currently higher than in previous decades, it has shown a reduction compared to 2017-18.

Individuals with higher education have always faced higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population, a situation that has characterised the Indian economy since the 1990s. Figure 2 outlines the unemployment rates for those with graduate degrees. From roughly 9% in the 1990s, the rate fell to 7.66% in 2011-12, before rising to 17% in 2017-18 and then 13% in 2022-23. Figure 3 shows the unemployment rate for young workers aged 18 to 29 with a graduate degree. From 1993-94 to 2004-05, almost a fifth to a quarter of all young individuals with graduate degrees faced long unemployment spells of 6 months or more. The rate dropped to 20% in 2011-12, before rising to a staggering 36% in 2017-18. The rate has been reduced by 2022-23 with 27% of young graduates facing long spells of unemployment.

Earlier, these high rates of unemployment were concentrated amongst a relatively small section of the labour force. In 1993-94, only 5% of the labour force were graduates, as shown in Figure 4. However, with the expansion of higher education, the share of graduates in the labour force has risen to around 15% by 2022-23. Thus, overall unemployment rates remain low even though graduates face high unemployment because the share of educated workers in the labour force is low. As enrolment rates continue to rise, the share of graduates in the labour force will increase, leading to increases in the aggregate unemployment rate. The problems of young job-seekers are not an aberration, but a worrying feature of the Indian labour market.

The problem of youth unemployment is a serious issue. Much more work is required to outline the exact factors causing unemployment amongst the highly educated - be it the inability of the education system to impart the requisite skills, or the inability of the growing economy to generate enough jobs for the increasing numbers of educated job-seekers entering the labour force each year - to ensure that the aspirations of the youth are not thwarted and the potential of the demographic dividend is properly harnessed.

(Rahul Menon is Associate Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University)

THE GIST

- Official data shows a decline in the national unemployment rate from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- Despite a decline in overall unemployment rates, highly educated youth face disproportionate challenges in securing employment, remaining a consistent structural issue in India's economy.
- The analysis spanning from 1993-94 to 2022-23 demonstrates that individuals with higher education face consistently higher unemployment rates, notably reaching 13% in 2022-23 for graduates.
- Young graduates aged 18 to 29 encountered particularly high unemployment rates, with around 36% facing long spells of unemployment in 2017-18, declining to 27% by 2022-23 but still higher than previous periods.

What does China's 2024 economic policy look like?

How does the shift towards a domestic demand-led growth strategy align with China's long-term economic goals, and what are the anticipated challenges in transitioning away from export-led growth?

Anushka Saxena

The story so far:

The 2023 Chinese Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC) recently concluded, highlighting a stability-focused pathway for the nation's 2024 economy. Key directives include shifting from export-led to domestic demand-led growth, enhancing high-quality production, striving for tech self-reliance while cooperating with trade partners, and maintaining financial discipline. While echoing previous goals, this agenda emphasises the need for structural reforms, necessitating a departure from entrenched Chinese party-state practices to shape the country's economic future.

How is China strategically addressing the challenges?

The first key area is dual circulation. As global demand has continued to decline amidst heightened sentiments of protectionism and 'de-risking', the country is now looking inwards to boost domestic consumption and only allow for a complimentary relationship with international demand. Chinese President Xi Jinping has referred to this as the "New Pattern of Development," and is an ambitious structural reform for a country known as the world's manufacturing hub.

What specific measures are being implemented?

China prioritises "high-quality" economic growth focused on addressing the imbalance between development and people's increasing demands for a better life. This shift emphasises domestic demand, specialised self-reliance, and sectors like high-tech and sustainable manufacturing. Agriculture receives attention for its contribution to GDP and growth, aligning with goals of rural revitalisation and food security, supported by the establishment of "agriculture innovation centers."

Self-reliance in core technologies has continued to be a repeated and explicit goal for the revival of the Chinese economy in the backdrop of intensifying tech-related export controls placed by the U.S. and its issue-based and treaty-based allies (such as the Netherlands and Japan respectively) against China. Although, the language of the CEWC readout has changed from "self-improvement" in high-technology in 2022 to "strength" in 2023. China maintains a "prudent monetary policy" and a "proactive fiscal policy," focusing on financial stability. The latter was also reiterated at the Central Financial Work Conference that took place just a month ago and has now become part of the implementational mandate of the newly established Central Finance Commission. Under 'proactive fiscal policy', in the past year, China has mobilised tools such as tax rebates for medium and small enterprises, as well as interest rate discounts for local governments. This is to enable them to alleviate some of the debt stress and continue to invest either in keeping employees on a regular payroll or in the unhindered development of infrastructure. Fiscal tools like tax rebates and interest rate discounts aid small enterprises and local governments in managing debt and sustaining infrastructure development. Efforts to ease local government debt include a special bond issuance for post-disaster recovery. However, the local authorities are warned to embrace frugality and stricter financial discipline due to escalating debt burdens, reaching around $60 trillion. The emphasis is on "fiscal sustainability" rather than bailouts. Monetary policy aims for stabilised liquidity levels, avoiding infusion despite past promises of an economic boost. Economic challenges like currency depreciation, income insecurity, rising unemployment, and capital outflows suggest injecting more liquidity won't improve investment and borrowing sentiments.

To address economic concerns, China aims to promote balanced trade to increase international demand. This move signals a willingness to open its market to key trade partners, potentially creating more balanced trade relations without favoring China excessively. This approach aligns with China's goal of "opening-up," supporting high-quality growth, focusing on self-reliance, especially in areas like technology and food security, amid ongoing U.S.-China geopolitical competition.

(Anushka Saxena is a research analyst with Takshashila Institution's Indo-Pacific Studies Programme)

THE GIST

- The 2023 Chinese Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC) emphasised a stability-oriented approach for the economy, shifting focus from export-led growth to domestic demand-led development while maintaining collaboration with international markets.
- Key areas of emphasis included the "New Pattern of Development" centered on boosting domestic consumption while maintaining a complementary relationship with international demand.
- High-quality economic growth, focused on addressing the primary contradiction of inadequate development versus the population's increasing need for a better life, became a priority.

Contractors demand immediate clearance of pending bills

State government yet to take a stand on whether they will clear bills or wait for the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The city's civic body has pending bills to the tune of over ₹2,800 crore. Contractors who have been running pillar to post, protesting, lobbying hard and even approaching the High Court of Karnataka to get their bills cleared, seems to have now lost hopes that their pending bills will be cleared in this financial year.

"The contractors are reeling under huge losses and are caught in a debt trap and we need these pending bills to be cleared immediately. However, from the information we have, the civic body doesn't have sufficient funds to do so. With pending bills, developmental works are also suffering in the city," said K.T. Manjunath, president, BBMP Contractors' Association.

However, a senior civic official claimed that the civic body did have funds, but would start clearing pending bills in tranches only after the State government clears it. "There has been a specific instruction to not clear pending bills till probes into the quality of works are completed. That is the reason we are not clearing pending bills," the officer said.

From the information we have, BBMP doesn't have sufficient funds. With pending bills, developmental works are also suffering in the city, says K.T. Manjunath, president, of BBMP Contractors' Association. FILE PHOTO

Between 2021 and 2023, contractors have carried out works to the tune of ₹3,258 crore. Following allegations of "40% commission" under the previous BJP regime, the incumbent Congress government refused to clear pending bills before a probe into the quality of these works and formed four Special Investigation Teams (SITs) led by four senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to probe the same.

However, contractors stalled all civic works in the city in protest, following which the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) released 12.62% of the total pending bills which is about ₹411 crore in September and ₹675 crore for works carried out under Amruta Nagarothana Scheme.

While the government had taken a stand that the pending bills would be cleared only after the probes were completed, now the SITs have been wound up following a High Court stay order on these probes.

The stay order was issued while hearing a petition filed by contractors. Now, these probes have been transferred to Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission probing "40% commission". The commission was asked to file a report within 45 days in connection to BBMP.

"It is unclear whether the government will clear pending bills now that the SITs have been wound up or will wait for the report from the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission. We are also awaiting clear instructions on the same," said a senior civic official.

Board exams for classes 5, 8 and 9 to be held from March 11 to 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The board exam (Summative Assessment-2) for classes 5, 8, and 9 will be held from March 11 to 18, 2024 across the State.

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) announced the tentative timetable on Tuesday.

Timings

Class 5 exams will be held from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and class 8 will be held from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and class 9 exams will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Earlier, the KSEAB was conducting the board exams for the classes 5 and 8.

However, this academic year, the government has extended the board exam for classes 9 and 11 too.

On March 11, first language Kannada, English Hindu, Marathi, Urdu, Telugu, Tamil and Sanskrit exams will be held.

On March 12, second language English and Kannada, on March 13, third language Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani and Tulu exams will be conducted.

On March 14 Mathematics, March 15 Science, March 16 Social Science and on March 18 Physical Education exams will be held.

'Vidyarthi Mitra' to address issue of erroneous CET applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aimed at curtailing errors while students fill out CET applications online, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) will hold a 'CET Vidyarthi Mitra Master Trainer programme' on Thursday.

S. Ramya, Executive Director, KEA stated in a press release on Tuesday, that selected eight lecturers from pre-university science colleges in each district will be trained at the KEA office here on Thursday.

Candidates make several mistakes while filling up the application which include name mismatch, entering incorrect RD number and category/caste to which they belong. Having observed how frequent these mistakes are, KEA has arranged for Master Training to find an effective solution to address the issue of erroneous applications, KEA said in a statement.

KEA Master Trainer Programme to be held tomorrow

The application errors lead to delaying the CET process and may also cause candidates to miss their chance of getting desired seats.

Sometimes, this may force the authorities to drop aspirants from the entire process.

The training has been arranged to avoid such circumstances, according to the release.

Those who are trained on Thursday will act as master trainers and will in turn further train two lecturers from each college in their respective districts. This entire process will be completed before the CET application submission process commences on January 10, Ms. Ramya said.

At the final stage, these lecturers will in turn train and guide students to fill application forms.

Chain and mobile snatching gang busted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City police have busted a gang that was snatching both gold chains and mobile phones, roaming around the city on stolen bikes. While three members of the gang have been arrested by K.R. Puram Police, other members of the gang are still at large and a manhunt has been launched to nab them. The arrested have been identified as Rohith, Bharath and Aruswamy, all in their 20s and residents of K.R. Puram.

The gang had stolen multiple bikes and used them for their crimes to avoid being tracked down.

The gang used to target women on morning walks or those putting rangoli in front of their houses early in the mornings and snatch gold chains from their necks and used to roam around the city and snatch high-end mobile phones that people either talked or messaged keeping in their hands during evening hours.

Police have recovered ₹6.5 lakh worth two gold chains and 30 mobile phones from the accused.

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No.EO/e-Proc.AIT/2023-24 Date: 22.12.2023

"E-TENDER NOTIFICATION" (II nd CALL)

Tenders have been re-invited from eligible agencies / service providers, for supplying of luxury buses (Local transport) and accommodation to the students (11 batches) of the University for All India educational tour on hire basis. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) For more details please contact 0836-2214214 / 332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact ph. No: 080-23010900

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1) Last Date & Time for queries.	27.12.2023	Upto	16.00 Hrs
2) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	30.12.2023	Upto	16.00 Hrs
3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids.	01.01.2024	@	16.15 Hrs
4) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bids.	02.01.2024	@	16.00 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process.

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಂ:ನ.ಸ.ನಂ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/02/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.12.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರಬರಾಜು ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	DMA/2023-24/SE1727	17.32	45000
2.	DMA/2023-24/SE1726	20.79	52000
3.	DMA/2023-24/SE0556/CALL-3	4.75	12000
4.	DMA/2023-24/IND0250/CALL-2	59.64	119500
5.	DMA/2023-24/SE1733	62.39	156000
6.	DMA/2023-24/SE1734	62.93	158000
7.	DMA/2023-24/IND1090	2.00	5000

ಸೂಚನೆ : ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/797/23-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru- 560 060.

No.: EE/KEN/TEND/14/2023-24 Date : 26.12.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System) (Call-1)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No-40 Dodda bidarakallu of Herohalli Sub Division (5 Works), Package-1.	798.18	12.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh online & remaining balance BG / FDR)

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.12.2023 onwards. 2)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **25.01.2024 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Opening of tenders will be as per KPP portal guidelines. Further details can be accessed from KPP portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the undersigned office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division.

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Yaragatti
E-Mail:apmcyaragatti@gmail.com Telephone No.:08337-254508

No.AMD/APMC(Y)/Dev/188/2023-24, Date:21-12-2023

-: Short Term Tender Notification :-

The Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Yaragatti is inviting short term tender for "CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROAD, RCC DRAIN, YARD ELECTRIFICATION AND WATER SUPPLY WORKS AT MMY OF APMC YARAGATTI UNDER RIDF-29 SCHEME 2023-24." as per "KW-4" through Karnataka e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Indent Number of this work is APMC/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT207. The Contractors Registered under P.W.D. Department, Government of Karnataka can bid on or before Dated:10-01-2024, time:5.00 PM. For more information please contact Karnataka e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Secretary A.P.M.C. Yaragatti during office hours.

Sd/-Praveen V. Angadi Secretary A.P.M.C. Yaragatti
Sd/-Neelakant B Shidabasannavar Chairman A.P.M.C. Yaragatti

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-835/MCA/2023-24

Governor of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Davanagere

ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿ/ದಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023–24/1485
ದಿನಾಂಕ:–22/12/2023

Tender Invited (KPPP Portal)

Executive Engineer, Panchayath raj Engineering Division, Davanagere here by invited Quotation tenders from KPPP Registered Suppliers for the item rates through KPPP Portal with Two cover system For the works approved under 2023-24 Link Document and Development Grant ZP for Supply of Deck for Govt. HPS, Supply of Computers and ups for libraries and Supply of Smart Interactive board for Approved Aganawadis in Davangere Dist. For price of highest and lowest estimated cost Rs.50.34 lakhs to 11.42 lakhs respectively and also highest & lowest EMD has as per KPPP portal for each work. The last date for submission of tender bid is on date: 6/01/2024 5.00 PM for any office information/clarification please contact the below singed office Ph no: 08192-250156 and also search website for www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/432/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24 Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Davanagere

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SRI.B.Y.PERUMAIAH** S/o Sri.Yellappa, residing at No.269, 3rd Main, Mini Forest, J P Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bengaluru-560078. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant **BDA Site bearing No.884, PID No.3320070017,** measuring East to West 15.00 Mtrs and North to South 24.00 Mtrs, in all measuring 360.00 Sq.Mtrs, in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, Bengaluru** and bounded as follows:

East by : Site bearing No.883
West by : Site bearing No.885
North by : Road
South by : Site bearing No.887 & 888

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGEE Devi dependent of Dinesh Kumar resident of Flat No.117, SLV Lake View Apartment, 1st Main Baba Nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore-63, Karnataka have changed my name from Nagee Devi to Nageshwari Devi vide Affidavit dated 26-12-2023 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KHATEEJA Taskeen, W/o Mohammed Shabuddeen Baig, R/a 11th Cross, Shahi Masjid, Pension Mohalla, Hassan (Rural), Karnataka - 573201 have changed my name to Khadeeja Taskeen vide affidavit dt: 20.12.23 sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi.K, B'luru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, PADMAVATHI Spouse of Krishna.C resident of No.101/2, 11th Cross, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West Bangalore North-560015 have changed my name from Padmavathi to Padma.M vide Affidavit dated 26-12-2023 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, DAVINDERJIT Singh Nafaria, resident of SMQ No. 257/3, Domestic Area, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063, Karnataka have changed my name from Davinderjit Singh Nafaria to Davinderjit Singh vide Affidavit dated 26-12-2023 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general and film trade in particular are hereby requested to take note that, our client PR Cinemas Private Limited, having its place of business at Plot No. 508/A, Shanti Villa Road No. 22, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, 500033 Telangana is in the process of acquiring sole, exclusive, perpetual, absolute, irrevocable and unencumbered right to make/produce (either on its own or in collaboration/association with third parties) and/or cause the making/production of multiple audio-visual content(s) of any nature whatsoever including cinematograph film, digital film, television series, web-series, documentary, animation, live-action and/or any other form of audio-visual content (**"Audio-Visual Content"**, which expression will include any work contained therein, including literary, dramatic, artistic and/or audio-visual work, cinematograph film etc., in all Indian and foreign languages) based on the life of "PVC Late Veer Abdul Hamid (Param Veer Chakra) Life including the 'Battle' of 1965 between India and Pakistan" .

Our client is acquiring the rights from Mr. Jamil Alam, residing at Dulhapur, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh -275202, the legal heir of PVC Late Veer Abdul Hamid, and who is the sole and exclusive owner of the same. The rights being acquired include the following rights: the sole and exclusive right to develop and produce any Audio-Visual Content based on the life of "PVC Late Veer Abdul Hamid" and that our client will own the sole and exclusive copyright and all allied intellectual property right, ownership rights, moral rights, economic rights, editing rights, neighboring rights, etc. in/to over the Audio-Visual Content and all parts thereof for a perpetual period and across the world, and the right to monetize, assign, encumber, alienate, exploit, create third party rights/licenses, market, promote and otherwise deal with the Audio-Visual Content and/or any part thereof and/or all underlying works contained therein, and to exhibit, publish, distribute and/or exploit (commercially or non-commercially) the Audio-Visual Content or any part thereof across/through all kinds of existing and future modes, media, format, technology and platforms of dissemination, transmission, exhibition, telecast, streaming, broadcast, and any form of communications throughout the worldwide territory (including India) for a perpetual period (collectively referred to as the **'Life Rights'**).

Any person, firm, entity or party having any claim(s) or any objection(s) of whatsoever nature to the acquisition of the Rights (or any thereof) by our client, by way of inheritance, bequest, partition, gift, assignment, pledge, charge, mortgage, lien, license, sale, transfer, reservation, litigation and/or any other encumbrance of any kind is hereby required to intimate their claim(s) and/or objection(s) in writing, by email, hand or post, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 10 (ten) days from the date hereof, failing which they shall be deemed to have given up, relinquished, released or abandoned such claim(s) or objection(s), if any, and the same shall be treated as waived and not binding upon our client.

Date: 26 December 2023
Place: Mumbai

Issued by:
UDITA KANWAR CHAVAN, Advocate
uditakchavan@outlook.com
WeWork, HD-033, Express Towers, Nariman Point, Marine Drive, Mumbai, MH 400021.

PULSE-CHECK

Hopeful journey: For drug-sensitive TB, a patient must take the medication for six months, and this is a long period for most people. AP

Do shortened TB treatment plans offer the solution for India's TB burden?

Tuberculosis treatment poses challenges due to long, difficult medication regimens; recent studies suggest shorter-duration treatment approaches, showing effectiveness in both adults and children; urgent adoption of these innovative treatments by India is crucial to enhance TB management

Vidya Mave
Aarti Kinikar
Sanjay Gaikwad

Tuberculosis is a dreadful disease with a high mortality and has consistently been a global health concern. India accounts for around 27% of TB cases worldwide - which is the world's highest country-wise TB burden - thanks in part to its population of 1.3 billion.

In the last decade, the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), along with the private sector, has successfully found and treated 17.14 million people with TB, including an estimated 1.4 million children. However, the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected TB care and has threatened to reverse the gains made in reducing India's burden. Additionally, the growing problem of drug-resistant TB also threatens the progress we have made in basic disease management.

Child unfriendly

TB is curable but treatment is challenging. For drug-sensitive TB, a patient must take the medication for six months, and this is a long period for most people. The treatment also includes three or four drugs that can have side effects and are difficult to swallow at times.

This is particularly difficult when the patients in question are children, who need to abide by a fixed drug regimen under the NTEP. The size and the taste of the tablet are not child-friendly. The NTEP presently recommends a daily dose of medicines under direct observation for six months, which can be tiring for families as well.

It is not surprising that many paediatric as well as adult TB patients discontinue taking treatment due to its long duration and side effects. Sometimes, they feel better and assume that completing treatment is optional. This puts families and other people who are in close contact with a TB-affected person at risk of infection. Stopping treatment prematurely can also contribute to the TB bacteria becoming drug-resistant.

How can we address this issue? One critical way, especially in countries with a high TB burden like India, is to explore new treatment approaches for TB and to integrate them into national plans.

Shorter regimen

The effort to make TB medicines easier to take is underway worldwide, as well as in India. Recent studies in adults who have TB in their lungs considered using a combination of new drugs and existing ones that are currently used for other diseases. The results of these studies are promising, showing that the length of time patients need to stay on their regimen can be reduced from six months to four months.

The SHINE trial, conducted with 1,200 children from four countries (India, Zambia, Uganda, and South Africa), also found that based on the drugs available with the NTEP, children with non-severe TB can be effectively treated in four months instead of six.

Shortening the duration for TB medication to cure the patient faster is transformational and also makes TB programme implementation more feasible.

Both studies had participants from India and their results have been included by the World Health Organization, in its TB treatment guidelines. However, India itself is yet to adopt the revised four-month treatment guidelines. There is, in fact, another study that reported recently that a two-month treatment course could be effective as well.

With a growing political commitment to India's battle against TB, the Indian government must embrace innovation and new approaches to treating this disease.

As it happens, the identification of safe and effective four-month and two-month regimens is the first significant advance in treating the most common form of TB in almost 40 years, and is a monumental achievement. It is also encouraging that more than 30 new chemical compounds that can fight the TB bacterium are in the pipeline.

At this time, it is up to researchers to identify the best combinations of these new drugs that are highly efficacious, the least toxic, and can be easily implemented in programmatic settings.

For this kind of research, a highly concerted effort needs to take place that involves both global and local researchers, funders, and regulatory authorities, with firm national and international political support.

Costs are a determining factor but they can be mitigated as well. Global experience in costing has shown that the prices of newer drugs come down when there is political will and when community charters, funders, and the leaders of national programmes negotiate prices with drug manufacturers. Lower costs can in turn motivate the global adoption of newer, shorter-duration, and less toxic drug combinations for diseases like TB.

India's aim to eliminate TB by 2025 is ambitious. The theme for World Tuberculosis Day (March 24) in 2023 was "Yes, we can end TB", which reflects the worldwide desire to eliminate the disease by 2030.

To (re)invigorate this fight, and to align with the vision of being 'TB Free' ahead of the global target, India must consider active screening and case detection along with new guidelines for shorter TB treatment. Policymakers must also consider moving to a shorter treatment course for treating TB at the earliest. If we delay, we stand to lose the fight as well as millions of lives to an ultimately curable disease.

(Vidya Mave, MD, MPH is director of Centre for Infectious Diseases in India and B.J. Government Medical College-Johns Hopkins University Clinical Research Centre, Pune. Aarti Kinikar, MD, is professor and head of Department of Paediatrics, B.J. Government Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital, Pune. Sanjay Gaikwad, MD is professor and head of Department of Pulmonary Medicine, B.J. Government Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital, Pune. The views expressed are the authors' own)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

French chemist Louis Pasteur was born on December 27, 1822. Here is a quiz on the scientist and his works

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Louis Pasteur was responsible for disproving this theory that believed living creatures could arise from non-living matter and that such processes were commonplace and regular. What is this doctrine called?

QUESTION 2
For what invention Pasteur is best known to the general public that involves milk?

QUESTION 3
Pasteur also made significant discoveries in chemistry. What was Pasteur's most notable contribution to chemistry?

QUESTION 4
His discovery of this organic compound led to the initiation of optical isomerism. What organic compound did he discover?

QUESTION 5
Pasteur proposed preventing the entry of micro-organisms into the human body. With this, he led Joseph Lister to develop antimicrobial substance methods in surgery. Name the substance.

QUESTION 6
Pasteur also introduced a vaccine for a disease which affected cattle. What is this disease called?

Visual Question:
Identify this pioneer institute in India. Where is it located?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Who was the lyricist and singer of *'Pi's Lullaby'*. **Ans: Bombay Jayashri**

2. What musical instrument that is used to play Carnatic repertoire is considered to be one of the world's loudest non-brass acoustic instruments? **Ans: Nagaswaram**

3. This musicologist, in 1917, published his research in Tamil music as *Karunamirdha Sagaram.* **Ans: Rao Sahib Abraham Pandithar**

4. What is the name given to the on the spot improvisation done by Carnatic musicians? **Ans: Manodharma**

5. Mrudangam is the primary rhythmic accompaniment in a Carnatic music ensemble, the wood for this instrument is taken from which tree? **Ans: Jackfruit**

Visual: What is happening here in the image? **Ans: As a mark of respect and thanksgiving to the saint, Thygaraja, Carnatic musicians from all over the world get together and pay their reverence to the Saint by singing the Pancharatna kritis on the Pushya Bahula Panchami - the day when he attained Samadhi**

Early Birds: Saravanan C | Sagar Sakalley | Divyesh Chouhan | Lakshmishree S

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

MS. J. Anupama, ANR College, Gudivada, wants to know the meaning of 'happy returns' in 'Many happy returns of the day'.

'Returns' here means 'returns of one's birthday'. Many happy returns or many happy returns of the day. You greet another and wish him/her many more birthdays. You wish him or her a long life.

Mr. S. Fayaz Ahmed, Government College of Education, Kurnool, wants to know the meaning of 'by fits and starts'.

'By fits and' starts' or 'in fits and starts' means 'continually starting and stopping, not regularly'.

She is very intelligent. But she doesn't work steadily and systematically.

She works in fits and starts.

A number of readers have asked for the definition of 'attorney', 'counsel', 'pleader', 'advocate', 'solicitor' and 'barrister'. I requested a learned friend of mine to enlighten me and the readers on this. At his request, I am not mentioning his name. The following is his reply for which I am most grateful.

"Attorney is a general expression which means a person who acts for another. Attorney at law is one employed by a party in a cause to manage the same. The expression Attorney is often used to refer to an Attorney at law in some countries but not in India. It however occurs as a prefix in "Attorney General of India" who is designated in the Constitution as the highest law officer of the Government of India. Counsel acts as a legal adviser and assists his client with advice and pleads for him in open court. 'Counsel' would include Attorneys where they are allowed by law or by the practice of any court to appear before it. The plural of counsel is counsel. Pleader is a general expression which means a person authorised to practise In any court and includes an advocate or an Attorney or any other person permitted by the court to act in any proceeding before the court.
Advocate: In the early days, pleaders were acting and appearing for parties in courts in India. But after the Bar Councils Act of 1926, persons were required to have their names entered into the role of advocates in a High Court before they were allowed to practise. Thereafter, the institution of pleaders ceased and was replaced by that of Advocates. However, in some States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the expression continues to be used as a suffix in 'Government Pleaders' to denote Government Advocates. Advocates are now governed by the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961 which has replaced the Bar Councils Act. They are entitled to act and plead on behalf of any person before any court, tribunal or authority (except in cases where a particular statute does not permit them to appear before a tribunal). Solicitor and Barrister. A solicitor is an advocate who acts for his client i.e. to advise him outside the court, to manage his legal affairs e.g. to draw up wills or other legal documents including plaints, written statements, affidavits, etc. to be filed before a court or authority. A Barrister is one who pleads i.e. appears before a court or authority and argues on behalf of his client. In England, however, what is known as the dual system prevails. Solicitors are allowed only to act. Barristers are entitled to plead. Solicitors cannot plead and Barristers cannot act. In the days of British rule, in cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, this system was practised to some extent. After the Advocates Act of 1961, there is only one institution of Advocates and they can both act and plead."
(Published in The Hindu on July 10, 1990)

Word of the day

Sanguine:
confidently optimistic and cheerful

Synonyms: hopeful, positive, upbeat

Usage: *The committee takes a more sanguine view.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/sanguinepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sæŋgwɪn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Renting a villa on NY's Eve could cost you over a lakh

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

If you want to rent out a place in Bengaluru on New Year's Eve, be ready to shell out more than a month's rent for a house. Due to the increased demand, the prices of hotels and other accommodation options like villas and farmhouses have gone up by three to four times, with many properties charging up to ₹1.2 lakh (including taxes) per night.

On the outskirts of the city near Devanahalli, Mysuru Road, Hosur Road, Koramangala, and others, the prices of villas and resorts range anywhere between ₹30,000 per night to ₹85,000 per night. The same properties are available for ₹10,000 - ₹20,000 in the second week of January, according to the information on a popular property booking website.

On the outskirts of the city near Devanahalli, Mysuru Road, Hosur Road, Koramangala, and others, the prices of villas and resorts range anywhere between ₹30,000 per night to ₹85,000 per night. FILE PHOTO

"I am trying to book a resort for 10 people in the areas around Bengaluru and the prices are mind-boggling. One of the resorts in North Bengaluru quoted the prices to be ₹55,000 before taxes. With most properties already booked, we have few options," said Kushal Venkatesh, a resident of Uttarahalli.

Hotel bookings

Apart from such properties, the price of rooms in three-star and five-star hotels have also gone up by at least 10%. In the Central Business District, the prices of rooms in star hotels are between ₹15,000 - ₹28,000 per night.

"Bengaluru has become a highly sought-after vacation spot resulting in an increased demand coupled with the rising operational costs (influenced by the festive arrangements). This has led to a slight price increase compared to regular periods. This is a common trend across the hospitality industry during peak seasons, and it ensures the sustainability of hotel operations," said Virender Razdan, General Manager, The Leela Bhartiya City, Bengaluru.

The price of rooms in three-star and five-star hotels have also gone up by at least 10%. In the Central Business District, the prices of rooms in star hotels are between ₹15,000 - ₹28,000 per night

P.C. Rao, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA) said that between Christmas and New Year's, around 50,000 rooms were booked in Bengaluru.

Boom season

"After COVID, the business is truly booming this time. Many tourists from North and North East India visit Bengaluru during this time. With it being the holiday season in the U.K. and U.S., tourists and NRIs from there are also coming to the city. Naturally, due to the demand surge, hotels have increased the rates by 5-10%," Mr. Rao said. He also added that while 70-75% of rooms have been booked at star hotels for New Year's, the remaining would be reserved for last-minute reservations, long-time customers and walk-ins.

According to sources, the hospitality sector in Bengaluru is expecting to have a turnover of ₹500 crore - ₹600 crore during the New Year's celebrations including accommodations, pubs and bars, restaurants and New Year's events. The excise collection is expected to surpass last year's ₹200 crore.

Water adalat tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday, in various areas to settle issues related to water billing, delays in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection.

BWSSB, in a release said that the adalat will be held between 9.30 a.m and 11 a.m. For any problems regarding water supply, public can contact 24x7 call centre: helpline number 1916. Complaints can also be filed through Whatsapp no: 8762228888, a release stated.

City police extend deadline by an hour on New Year's Eve; elaborate security measures announced

For the first time, M.G. Road metro station will remain closed for outbound services to other stations. Inbound services are available till 1:30 a.m.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27	
RISE 06:39	SET 18:02
RISE 18:21	SET 06:50
THURSDAY, DEC. 28	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:02
RISE 19:17	SET 07:44
FRIDAY, DEC. 29	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:03
RISE 20:11	SET 08:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	24
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid.. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will remain cool.

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THE HINDU
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The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police have extended the deadline for all establishments by an hour till 1 a.m. on New Year's Eve in the city. Meanwhile, the city police guidelines for the revelry, especially on M.G. Road and Brigade Road, are silent on increase in COVID-19 cases in the city and doesn't specify on guidelines for the same.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, B. Dayananda holding a press meet on Tuesday, said clubs and pubs can operate till 1 a.m. instead of midnight.

Such an extension was given on New Year's Eve last year too. He announced elaborative security measures ahead of New Year's Eve in the city, especially in the prime locations where the festivities are observed.

As a stampede-like situation prevailed at M.G. Road last year, this time the government decided to close outbound train services from the station from 11 p.m. in the night. FILE PHOTO

For the first time, M.G. Road metro station will be closed for outbound services to other stations. As a stampede-like situation prevailed at M.G. Road last year, this time the government decided to close outbound train services from the station from 11 p.m.

However, inbound services are available till 1:30 a.m. The commuters have to move to Cubbon Park metro station or Trinity metro station to catch the train.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have restricted the movement of vehicles between 8 p.m. on December 31 and 1 a.m. on January 1 on M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, a portion of Museum Road, Rest House Road (between Museum Junction and Brigade Junction) and Residency Road (from Residency Road Junction to M.G. Road Junction).

The vehicle owners who park vehicles on these roads have to vacate the vehicles before 4 p.m. on December 31, if failed the violators will be penalised. Parking on these roads is prohibited till 4 a.m. next day.

To curb speeding, and stunts and avoid accidents, all flyovers except on Airport Road will be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drone cameras will be used for monitoring, with a focus on key areas like Koramangala and Indiranagar's 100 feet road.

Safety islands

The officials have set up a designated area termed Women Safety Island within the city intending to provide a secure environment for women who are stepping out of their homes to celebrate the new year.

The police will also set up 48 check posts in the city to check drinking and driving cases and have advised to bring along non-drinkers in the groups to drive the vehicles.

As part of security arrangements, a large team comprising additional police commissioners, a joint commissioner, 15 Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs), 45 Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs), 160 Police Inspectors (PIs), 600 Sub-Inspectors, 600 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), 1800 Head constables, and 5200 constables have been deployed across the city, said Mr. Dayananda.

He said the police have been cracking down on drugs for the past one week to ensure a drug free new year.

THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

Hampi Utsav begins on Feb. 2

The three-day Hampi Utsav will be held from February 2. The festival will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Housing Minister and Vijayanagar district in-charge Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan said that instructions have been issued to the district administration to organise the utsav in a grand manner by involving local artists. The Minister has said that a meeting involving all the elected representatives, including legislators, would be convened soon in connection with the festival preparations.

State Cong. leaders to attend rally in Nagpur tomorrow

Several Congress leaders from Karnataka, including KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, will be heading to Nagpur to attend the party's rally on Thursday.

In its preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress has decided to organise a rally in Nagpur to celebrate its foundation day. The event is expected to draw a crowd of 10 lakh Congress workers from across India.

From Page One

Home isolation must for COVID-19 patients

"However, wearing masks and adhering to COVID-appropriate behaviour is advisable. Children with flu symptoms (cold, cough and fever) should not be sent to school. Parents should monitor them at home and get them tested if required. Regarding travel, there is no restriction on movement of people. Also no screening or testing of people at border areas as of now. Detailed guidelines in this regard will be issued by the government soon," the Minister said.

JN.1 burden

Stating that the Cabinet sub-committee and TAC discussed the COVID situation based on the global trajectory of JN.1, the Minister said the department will seek help from experts at IISc and the Indian Statistical Institute to estimate the burden of the COVID-19 in the State in January-February.

Two more deaths

With two more deaths on Tuesday, nine deaths have occurred after the recent spike in cases and of these, three have been found to be infected with JN.1 as of now. The genome sequencing results of other samples are awaited, he said.

Noting that it has been decided to ensure the availability and working condition of tele ICUs and ICU beds, pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants and Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), Mr. Gundu Rao said directions have been issued to ensure preparedness.

CM launches Yuva Nidhi, says Modi's claim on 'guarantees' proved wrong

The scheme offers monetary aid to graduates and diploma holders; all five guarantees implemented and the State is financially healthy, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday launched the registration of the fifth and final poll guarantee 'Yuva Nidhi' in Bengaluru, offering unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders.

Its successful launch, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, had rendered false Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that the "guarantee" schemes would turn the exchequer bankrupt.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah handing over a certificate of the Yuva Nidhi scheme to a beneficiary at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

On National Youth Day

The government will begin the distribution of allowances on January 12, the day when national youth day is celebrated to mark Swamy Vivekananda's birth anniversary. The scheme offers monetary assistance of ₹3,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders who passed in the 2022-23 academic year.

The money would be given to those who do not get a job even after completion of 180 days from the date of passing of the degree/diploma, officials said, adding that the candidates are required to prove domicile of Karnataka for a minimum of six years.

Taking a jibe at Mr. Modi, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked on what basis Mr. Modi had made predictions about the economic implications of the scheme. "Is Mr. Modi an economist? He had said that the State would become bankrupt. All the five guarantees have been implemented and the State is financially healthy," the Chief Minister asserted.

About 5.3 lakh youth who have passed out during the academic year 2022-2023 have been identified as eligible beneficiaries.

However, those with employment and those pursuing higher education are not eligible.

The financial assistance is for a period of two years. A total of ₹250 crore is estimated for the remaining financial year, the scheme is expected to cost ₹1,250 crore next year and ₹2,500 crore the year after.

Training promised

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that along with Yuva Nidhi, free training to the youth will be provided. "The scheme has reached the people of the State. Mr. Modi had promised to create two crore jobs annually and by now he should have created 20 crore jobs across the country. Did he create the promised jobs? The promise has not been kept up," he added.

The unemployment allowance would be given for a period of two years from the date of announcement of the result or till he/she becomes employed/self-employed whichever is earlier. The amount will be directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiaries.

The Skill Development, Entrepreneurship aand Livelihood department has launched the scheme with a tagline "For a glorious future of the youth." Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Minister Sharanprakash Patil were present.

Shivakumar turns poet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar turned a poet at the launch of Yuva Nidhi to make the point that the five "guarantees" had made Congress stronger while giving a jolt to the Opposition BJP and JD(S).

Speaking on the occasion, he recited, "Five fingers make a fist/ Five guarantees make the hand strong/ With five guarantees, the petals of the lotus have withered/ And the woman farmer has dropped the bundle of hay/ Five guarantees have strengthened the hand."

Yediyurappa was involved in ₹40,000 crore corruption during COVID-19 wave: Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Firing one more salvo at former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, his bête noire and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal alleged on Tuesday that the BJP veteran was involved in a ₹40,000 crore scam during the COVID-19 wave in his tenure.

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

Speaking at Vijayapura, he said, "I know which leader has made how much money in what manner. Mr. Yediyurappa is involved in a scam of ₹40,000 crore during COVID-19. The government has procured masks worth just ₹45 at ₹485 each. The Yediyurappa-led government said it took 10,000 beds for COVID care centres. The rates fixed for renting out the beds was so high that two beds could be bought for the price of one." He went on to say, "The Supreme Court will be hearing corruption cases pertaining to two leaders from Karnataka. On January 5, it will hear a case of Deputy Chief Minister D.K Shivakumar's involvement in some alleged irregularities and the next is the case pertaining to Mr. Yediyurappa."

CM responds

Responding to the allegation against Mr. Yediyurappa on the social media handle X, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged Mr. Yatnal to submit all the documents related to it to the Justice Nagmohan Das Commission. Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that the allegations made by Mr. Yatnal was proof of the "40% commission" allegation that the Congress had made while in Opposition during the BJP regime. "Mr. Yatnal has given direct evidence to our claim of 40% commission government," he said.

Urging Mr. Yatnal to submit documents to the Justice Nagmohan Das Commission which is probing irregularities, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "If Mr. Yatnal has any genuine intention of removing corruption, he should take his allegations to a logical end."

Patil's statement on farmers unacceptable, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Commenting on the controversial statement of Textile Minister Shivanand Patil recently that has drawn flak from Opposition and farmers' groups, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that one had to be not only careful when speaking on farmers but should also be respectful.

"To be careful and respectful should be the code always. Farmers should not be insulted by loose talks," the Chief Minister said in a social media post on Tuesday.

"I am sure that Mr. Patil, who comes from a farmers family, did not intend to insult farmers. He must have said a few things taking his proximity with farmers around him for granted," he said, adding that the statement was in any case unacceptable.

Mr. Patil had said that farmers wish for repeated droughts that could result in loan waiver, drawing sharp criticism from the Opposition BJP.

The Chief Minister said, however, that the BJP that does not care for farmers' welfare and was using this opportunity to create a controversy.

"What moral right do BJP leaders have to talk about the issue when they in the past ordered firing on farmers who demanded seeds and fertilizers? Another leader had asked if the government had note printing machine when farmers asked for loan waiver," he said.

> I am sure Mr. Patil, who comes from a farmers family, did not intend to insult farmers. But what moral right do BJP leaders have to talk about the issue when they in the past ordered firing on farmers who demanded seeds and fertilizers?
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

Mr. Siddaramaiah further asked, "What have BJP leaders, who are shedding crocodile tears, done for farmers? We are the genuine friends of farmers. The schemes that we have implemented in the last six months shows our love towards farmers."

Listing out farmer-friendly schemes that his government has implemented in the drought-hit year, he said that though Union government has not released money for farmers welfare, the State government has released ₹2,000 to every farmer family, and have taken steps to restructure mid-term and long-term loans in cooperative sector.

"The country witnessed what BJP government at the Centre did to bring the anti farmer farm laws despite farmers seeking loan waiver in nationalised banks. Farmers have understood the BJP's effort to mortgage the farm sector to the corporate sector. Just to mask their failures, BJP leaders keep attempting to create controversies," he said.

Vijayendra calls meeting of senior leaders on Dec. 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Newly appointed BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra has convened a meeting of senior leaders in Bengaluru on December 28 to get their advice on the party's road map for strengthening its organisation, taking up struggles against alleged failures of the government and preparations for the Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting is being attended by his father and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, former Chief Ministers D.V. Sadananda Gowda and Basavaraj Bommai, party former State president Nalin Kumar Kateel besides several former Ministers. Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru on Tuesday, BJP State general secretary P. Rajiv said the party would chalk out its struggles against the government and decide on the preparations for the Lok Sabha polls based on their advise. Also, their suggestions would be sought on strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots level, he said.

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the party's newly constituted State office-bearers is being held in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

After the office-bearers' meeting, the party is also holding district-level meetings of prominent leaders as part of efforts to appoint district unit presidents and office-bearers, Mr. Rajiv said. These meetings are being seen as part of efforts to take all the leaders into confidence.

It's time to act against those practising medicine sans qualification: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is time to pull the curtains down on persons who are practising medicine without qualification and hoodwinking poor people in rural areas, said the High Court of Karnataka.

A 57-year-old person was practising medicine, including allopathy, for years in Kolar district even though he possessed only a diploma in paramedical course

The court made these observations while noticing that a 57-year-old person was practising medicine, including allopathy, for years in Kolar district even though he possessed only a diploma in paramedical course.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Annaiah N. of Oorgaumpet of Bangarpet taluk in Kolar district. The petitioner, who was running a clinic named Sangeetha Clinic, had questioned the rejection of his application for registration of his clinic under the provisions of the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007.

Upholding the decision of the district registration committee set up under the 2007 Act, the court said, "It is unmistakably clear that the qualification possessed by the petitioner does not make him a 'private medical practitioner' as defined in Section 2(k) of the Act, 2007."

The petitioner possesses only a Diploma in Community Medical Services with Essential Drugs (CMS-ED), a paramedical course.

"He is not a doctor as defined under the Act... Without being so, he claims to have practised for ages now at Kolar and would obviously be even prescribing medicine. His practice, as averred in the petition, is allopathy as well...," the court noted while observing that "it is rather strange as how the petitioner addresses himself as a practising doctor for all these years."

The district authority had sealed his clinic for not possessing registration under the Act and he had allegedly opened the clinic by breaking open the seal and subsequently applied for registration during which the authorities found that he had no requisite qualification to be a medical practitioner and hence rejected his plea registration of his clinic.

FIR against Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat for 'insulting' women

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

An FIR has been registered against RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat at Srirangapatna in Mandya district for comments allegedly insulting women and promoting religious enmity. According to a complaint filed by Najma Nazeer, a social worker, Mr. Bhat had allegedly targeted Muslim women and promoted religious hatred against Muslims while addressing a gathering during Sankeertana Yatra, which was organised by Hindu Jagrana Vedike in Srirangapatna on December 24.

Mr. Bhat had allegedly insulted women and spoken about them in an obscene manner in a public place. Further, Mr. Bhat had spoken in a manner that would promote enmity between Hindus and Muslims, the complainant said.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR and booked Mr. Bhat under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including Section 294 (dealing with uttering obscene words in a public place), Section 509 (dealing with words or gestures that intrude into the privacy of women), and Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion), and Section 298 (deliberate hurting of religious feelings).

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Why Karnataka government brought amendment to BBMP Act, 2020

In the just-concluded Belagavi session, the Karnataka Govt. brought an amendment to the BBMP Act, 2020, with retrospective effect to regularise collection of ground rent from property owners

EXPLAINER

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

An aerial view of buildings and apartments coming up on the outskirts of Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

BBMP head office at Hudson Circle. K. MURALI KUMAR

The story so far

The Karnataka government in the Belagavi session brought an amendment to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, 2020, with retrospective effect to regularise the collection of ground rent from the property owners. With this, the BBMP aims to avoid repayment of about ₹1,712 crore to the property owners and builders in the city which it collected from them.

After a section of builders approached the Karnataka High Court over collection of ground rent by the BBMP, the collection of such fees was termed "illegal." The court found merit in the argument of the builders that the BBMP was collecting the fee despite there being no such provisions in the BBMP act. The court directed the BBMP to repay the money to the builders. To avoid payment, the government passed BBMP and Certain Other Law (amendment) bills in the recently concluded winter sessions in Belagavi.

How it all began

All this began in the year 2015 when IAS officer T.M. Vijay Bhaskar was administrator of the BBMP. The Town Planning Department of the civic body sent a proposal to Vijay Bhaskar asking him to fix the fee amount for ground rent, licence fee, building licence fee, scrutiny fee and other miscellaneous fee for sanction plan. Vijay Bhaskar, who retired as Chief Secretary on December 31, 2020, approved the same

Construction work going on in Chamarajpet. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Between 2015 to 2021, the BBMP had collected ₹1,712 crore from the builders

and said cess which is collected should be linked to the guidance value of the property.

Between 2015 to 2021, the BBMP had collected ₹ 1,712 crore from the builders. The BBMP is yet to recover ₹688 crores from them. The BBMP has been collecting the fees issuing circulars, though there were no provisions in the law to make collection. Back in 2015, a section of builders started to approach the High Court pleading with the court to end the system of ground rent. The fees are levied per square feet and this, in turn, depends on the guidance value of the area.

A builder said in the past the Bengaluru City Corporation was collecting ground rent from property owners for it, allowing it to dump construction materials on the footpaths and public spaces. However, after the formation of the BBMP and rules about footpaths, the civic body mandated not to dump waste and construction materials either on footpaths or in public spaces.

With this, the right to collect ground fee also came to an end. Now, no builders can put materials outside the construction site and the collection is not just unfair but illegal. The builders also asked the High Court to reduce other fees.

In 2021 and 2022, the BBMP issued circulars saying it has amended rules for collection of ground rent, making it mandatory for the builders to pay this fee. This is despite in 2021 High Court termed the circular ultra vires. In the fag end of 2022, the High Court came down heavily on the BBMP terming the collection illegal.

Government comes up with proposal, amends

Realising that BBMP may have to lose the already collected money, the civic body sent a proposal in August, 2023, to the Urban Development Department (UDD) to include provisions in the BBMP Act to avoid repayment and regularise ground rent. The BBMP said the amendment should be made with retrospective effect to avoid repayment.

According to the sources, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar showed interest in the proposal and directed a draft amendment.

In the session he explained why the amendment was necessary, "Based on the circular, the government had collected ₹ 1,712 crore between 2015 and 2023 and it was yet to collect another ₹688 crore. There were some lapses in the circular due to which the High Court ruled against it. The order meant that the BBMP has to refund the collected sum. To rectify this, amendment is necessary."

According to a builder, who approached the court, the government cannot bring an amendment with retrospective effect and even this will be questioned in the High Court.

The builders were hoping to get crores which they paid to the civic body knowing fully well that it was illegal and now the government has used a "trick" to protect the BBMP.

What the BBMP says and what are its implications?

However, a BBMP official said the government has every power to amend the rules with retrospective effect and there were many instances of it in the past.

The one fruitful outcome of the exercise is that the government has now agreed to slash the plan approval fee.

The government has to now frame rules to the amended provisions. It is said that fee will be reduced while framing the rules.

BNP to organise guided tours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BNP) is organising daily guided tours for visitors to get a close insight of the newborn zoo animals.

"This holiday season to get to know its zoo, safari and butterfly park residents up-close along with special insight about our newborns," stated BNP. The guided tour will be held between December 23, 2023 to January 1, 2024 (except Tuesday) between 11 am and 3 pm. The tour fee is ₹ 1000 which includes zoo, AC bus safari and butterfly park visit along with a dedicated Educator. Children above the age of 5 years are eligible to take part in the tour.

CartoonistsIndia exhibition in Bengaluru on January 6

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Cartoonists is organising an exhibition "CartoonistsIndia2023" on January 6, 2024 at the Indian Cartoon Gallery.

The exhibition will showcase some of the old, new and rare cartoons and photographs.

These include the works of Mario de Miranda, R.K.Laxman, Shankar Pillai, Abu Abraham, Sudhir Dar, Bal Thackeray, B.V. Ramamurthy, Maya Kamath, Paul Fernades, Hemant Morparia, Prriya Raj, Ajit Ninan, Jayanto Banerjee,

'Procession' by Mario

Alok Norantar, Eskay Sriram, Sudhir Tailang, Madhan, Sukumar, Amal Chakraborty, and Talisetty Ramarao.

The circle of life and how to break it

There is enough advice for young parents, but not nearly enough for young adults

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Which is the more difficult, bringing up children or bringing up parents? The former may be more important but the latter is a continuous process too. There is enough advice (often confusing and contradictory) for young parents, but not nearly enough for young adults.

Parents are being constantly told they don't know how to bring up children. Not by psychologists or childless couples, but by their own children. This social phenomenon is hardly researched. There are no papers presented in our universities nor is there a line from Socrates or Plato that everyone quotes on the subject.

I think it was Jackie Kennedy who said that if you bungle raising your children, whatever you accomplish in life does not amount to much. But what if you bungle raising your parents? While everything else has got more professional, more data-driven, parenthood remains the preserve of the amateur. Perhaps by our third or fourth child, we begin to get the hang of it, but usually by then it is too late and we tend to lose interest. The first child gets everything in concentrated form: the good, the bad, the unexplained.

Children having a gala time at the beach, as a parent captures their moments in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU

When my son was growing up I'd tell friends proudly: "He doesn't need much. Just fresh air and the occasional watering." But when he became an adult, he complained of his childhood air and watering methods and lectured us on how children should be brought up.

In a moment of honesty, I realised I had done the same to my father. His response was the one that parents everywhere have been telling their children throughout civilisation. "Wait till you have a child of your own, and then you will understand." I did and I did. At least enough to pass on that pearl of wisdom to my child, who will, at the appropriate moment of irritation and frustration, repeat it to his child. It is, to quote Elton John, the circle of life.

And it is not a father-son legacy either. My wife tells me that her mother told her something similar. Perhaps that is how we keep our race alive. Each succeeding generation begets children to know if their parents were right. They also believe they can break the circle and become the perfect parents.

But of course, there is no such thing as a perfect parent. Psychologists speak of the Perfect Parent Syndrome, where the attempt to become one ruins lives all around. I haven't heard of the Perfect Child Syndrome, but it must exist and could be equally ruinous. The perfect parent-perfect child combination will bring civilisation to an end. After such perfection, what evolution?

Parents begin by doing to their children what they wish their parents had done to them, and keep at it for a while before giving it up because their children will always tell them they know best.

Oscar Wilde got it right when he said, "Our children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 27, 1973

Krishna Award: Call to Convene Karnataka Assembly

Bangalore: The Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda told newsmen here that he had requested the Chief Minister to convene an emergent session of the State Legislature to discuss the injustice caused to the State by the Krishna Water Tribunals award.

Mr. Gowda said that his party was prepared to go to any length to support the Government on the Krishna waters issue and extend his 'Unconditional cooperation' in getting justice to the State. Describing the award as a permanent curse to the State Mr. Gowda questioned the basis on which the allocation had been made and felt that all norms like the catchment area and the area in the basin had been thrown to the winds.

Spare Parts Stolen from HMT Watch Unit Recovered

Bangalore: Spare Parts and components of watches worth about Rs. one lakh stolen from the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, here have been recovered by the police and four persons have been arrested.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. M.J. Chandrasekhar, told newsmen here that the management had registered a complaint with the police that there was theft of spare parts of watches in the automatic watch unit on December 17.

The arrested include the watchman of the unit, two employees of the factory and an auto-rickshaw driver.

Not your regular teenager

Meet Tanya Shanker, who writes songs that draws from her own life experiences and emotions

Priyamedha Dutta

Tanya Shanker, an 18-year-old budding singer from Bengaluru, released her latest single on December 8.

Titled *Phoenix*, the album is a pop-rock ballad about overcoming hurdles and obstacles.

The song is an ode to fighters across the world and people who turn "tragedies into their muse".

Tanya started singing when she was seven.

"I remember singing even as a child. My mother always jokes that she played music all the time while I was in her womb and that is how, she says, I fell in love with music," reveals the singer.

Tanya's first single *Thank You Mum* came out in 2019 and garnered over 20k views in a week which helped kick-start her musical career.

She calls her mother her biggest inspiration behind her first album.

"I would always notice the small things that she did for me and like any curious 12-year-old, I decided to write my first song on my mother," says the youngster.

Her second single *Be Yourself*, released the same year, is about following one's passion and not giving in to peer pressure.

Tanya attributed her success to a chance encounter in 2016 when she met her mentor and manager, Richard Andrew Dudley. And, the duo has been working together ever since. She believes that her love for reading and writing has also helped shape her music, "I believe when you consume other arts, it allows you to be more creative."

The healing touch The singer finds music thearapeutic.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tanya is also the lead singer for MOKSHA (All Stars), the band for which she performs regularly and has toured cities including Mumbai, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram.

Tanya remembers the exact moment she knew she wanted to be a performer for the rest of her life. "I remember my first stage performance for school where I sang *Cow Boy Take Me Away* by The Chicks, I was so nervous standing on the stage in front of so many people, but that was the moment I realised this is what I want to do."

Talking about her latest single *Phoenix*, featuring artists like BobbybeeBob and Manou Rao, which she says is a song about rising through challenges in life, "It came out of a bunch of personal struggles that I was facing last year, there was this moment where I thought of giving up."

"Ultimately, it is a song about resilience and bouncing back from all the difficulties that we face. Getting up and telling myself that I can do this."

Talking about her process of penning down lyrics, Tanya says that most of her songs come out of "deep self-reflection and rumination."

"A lot of the times before I even sit to write a song, I have an idea what it is going to be about."

For her music is like therapy, "When you produce something out of all the emotions that you feel, it is extremely cathartic."

CITYBEATS

Temple dance

DECEMBER 30
Navasandhi, a 15th Century rare ancient Indian traditional temple dance will be showcased in Bengaluru. The dance is restructured and directed by Dr Veena Murthy Vijay of Sri Rajarajeshwari Kala Nikethan and is presented by Dr Sangeetha Phanish.
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, 4pm. Contact 9980125245 for your free invitation.

Not just a mishmash

DECEMBER 29 ONWARDS
The Drawing Room at Smoke House Deli presents Friday Tipsy Jazz evenings. It will offer you a fusion of live jazz and The Drawing Room Cocktail experience. This weekend it will be a performance by Gabe Diamond, a guitarist from USA.
At Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar, 8pm. Call 8657738861.

A Kathak duet

DECEMBER 29
Nidhika and Sonali Loomba will be present a Kathak duet. The event is organised and supported by ICCR under its Every Friday Cultural Evening Program (EFCEP). The dancers are students of Hari and Chethana Hari and trained in their Noopur Performing Art Center, Bengaluru. It is open to all.
At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 630pm.

Perfectly in Sync Manohar Patwardhan and (below) Nishant Panicker
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tradition through music

The concert, Echoes of Tradition, will feature Manohar Patwardhan and Nishant Panicker from the Agra Gharana.

Manohar is a Hindustani vocalist, who is a software engineer by profession and musician by passion.

He trained under Lalith J Rao for the past 12 years and has performed across the country with some of his notable concerts being Aarohi Yuva Sangeetotsav (Mumbai) organised by Pancham Nishad in 2019, Chowdhury House Music Conference (Kolkata) in 2017, 2019, 2022, Yuva Sangeetotsav (Bengaluru) organised by Saptak, RT Nagar Sangeet Sabha, Raga Sangama.

The young singer is also known for his *Bhava Geethe* compositions and performances.

Nishant started training at the age of six with the sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath.

He also trained under Lalith J Rao, who is considered the doyenne of the Agra-Atrauli Gharana. At 18, Nishant was one of the youngest in the country to receive the prestigious NCPA Hindustani Vocal Scholarship and has performed solo and in group concerts across the country.

He is also a trained Kathak dancer and is currently pursuing his PhD in Systems Biology from the University of Pittsburgh.

On December 28, 7pm at BIC (Bangalore International Centre), Entry is free but RSVP required. For details visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Documenting the dreams and struggles of a Tiktoker

Shilpa Anandraj

YouTube and TikTok videos are the new-age virtual platforms that keeps millennials and gen-Z hooked to their screens. The number of uploads and content created prove that there is no dearth of talent . Ever wondered what goes into the making of these shorts? Do they put in hours of back-end work into making these 15-second films? That is exactly what 22-year-old Divya Kharnare's film, *15 Seconds A Lifetime* sets out to find out. Written and directed by Divya, the film is a result of his two-year research and documentation. The film follows the journey of a young Mumbai-based boy, Mayur Natekar, who is obsessed with making his dreams come true with TikTok. "He dreams of not only monetary benefits from the platform, but also to use it as a springboard to realise his acting ambition. Mayur is not alone in this journey, and finds ample encouragement from his parents and younger brother, who not only wish to see Mayur make it big in the world of films, but also look at TikTok as a means to overcome their financial burdens," says Divya over a call from FTII Pune, where he is studying filmmaking.

Capturing raw emotions Mayur in a still from the film and (above) Divya Kharnare
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Divya quit his job as a Director & Content Creator at BhaDiPa (a regional YouTube Channel) to make films.

He says there were three reasons to make *15 Seconds*... "I was working with BhaDiPa creating short content for them, yet wanted to explore and challenge myself to see if I had the perseverance and patience to make a film. The other reason was the research. Before 2019, TikTok was huge in India. When it was banned in India, the 200 million plus users who were using the app here, went crazy. That triggered my thinking as to what it is about TikTok that people are so addicted to.I started watching the app and discovered that 80% of viewers in India come from two and three-tier cities with a monthly income below 25K. These aspects intrigued me and I wanted to explore if art and privilege were connected in any way. Through this film, I wanted to understand what they perceived as art and why these 15 seconds of fame were so important to them," says the director, who is one of the winners of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' Award at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2021.

Encouraged, Divya made *15 Seconds A Lifetime,* which has been screened in Moscow, Melbourne, Mexico and at the New York Indian Film Festival 2022.

"It is easy to judge tiktok-ers as 'crazy' but the film goes beyond the screen. What is the definition of art for them and why do they even change their hair colour and personality to make their videos? The other challenge was to not make it an academic research kind of a film, but more a human interest story about a boy who dreams of making it big and the hurdles he goes through."

The film also captures the challenges Mayur goes through to create and present himself as a brand and an influencer, the manner in which he uses his surroundings and a small corner in his crammed home to create and upload his videos. His struggle does not end with the uploads. He goes through anxious moments as he waits for subscribers and likes, leaving the viewer wondering if all the hassle is really worth it.

15 Seconds A Lifetime, a 62-minute film in Marathi, Hindi, English, produced by Hardik Mehta and Divya Kharnare, will be screened on December 27, 6.30pm at Vikalp. Divya will join virtually for a post-screening conversation with Sunanda Bhat.

Devotees visit cave shrine atop Bababudangiri

Strict vigil: Police use a vehicle with 360 degree cameras to keep an eye on the crowd during Datta Jayanthi programme. G.T. SATHISH

Sathish G.T.
CHIKKAMAGALURU

Hundreds of devotees from different places visited Sri Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swamy Dargah, the cave shrine atop Bababudangiri in Chikkamagaluru taluk, to mark the culmination of the three-day Datta Jayanti, on Tuesday.

Former Ministers C.T. Ravi and Pramod Madhwaraj, leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal, and heads of various maths were among those who visited the shrine on the day.

The district administration had made elaborate security arrangements with 4,000 policemen, including those from neighbouring districts, deployed for security. This time, the leaders of Sri Rama Sene had announced that they would hold Datta Jayanti at Nagenahalli, where the Dargah is located. The district administration had taken precautionary measures by clamping prohibitory orders at the place. The top leaders of Sri Rama Sene were barred from entering the district.

'Will resolve issue'

B.S. Dwarakanath, nominated member of Karnataka Dharmika Parishat, has said he will make efforts to resolve the shrine dispute amicably. "The government has given me some responsibility. I wish to resolve it by speaking to the people. If everybody extends cooperation, I will make efforts to resolve it," he said.

He also said the issue could have been resolved long ago. "However, some people want it to remain alive as it benefits them. The age-old dispute over the Ayodhya temple has been resolved. Similarly, this can be resolved," he said. The shrine has been caught in recent decades in a legal battle following demand from the Hindutva organisations to declare it a Hindu place of worship.

EPS criticises 'step-motherly attitude' of Centre towards T.N.

No point in trusting national parties, says Palaniswami; reiterates that AIADMK is not in BJP alliance

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday criticised the 'step-motherly' attitude of successive Central governments, regardless of whether they were led by the Congress or the BJP, towards Tamil Nadu whenever the State requested funds to overcome the effects of natural disasters.

During his speech at the AIADMK general council meeting, Mr. Palaniswami said, "Be it the Congress or the BJP, they are treating Tamil Nadu with a step-motherly attitude. The Centre does not have a history of granting the funds sought by the State.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the party's general council meeting in Chennai on Tuesday. RAGU R.

The AIADMK's stand is that the Centre should grant the necessary funds."

The Central government should realise that it was its duty to grant funds to Tamil Nadu as relief for natural disasters, Mr. Palaniswami said.

On PM choice

When asked who the AIADMK's Prime Ministerial choice was, he said that for his party, the people were the masters, and the voice of the people should be heard in Parliament.

National parties entered into alliances to win elections, but their alliance partners were affected when certain actions were taken against the States, Mr. Palaniswami said, adding, "There is no use in trusting the national parties today."

As for the AIADMK, its MPs would be the voice of the people in Parliament, he said. When Mr. Palaniswami reiterated that the AIADMK was not in an alliance with the BJP, his party members expressed their approval with slogans.

Revanth meets Modi, gives list of issues pending with Centre

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The State government has made a strong pitch with the Union government to take steps for the fulfilment of assurances given to Telangana in the A.P. Reorganisation Act 2014.

The Centre has been requested to release pending dues and to liberally assist Telangana in strengthening health and education sectors. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his deputy Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka gave a list of issues pending with the Centre to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

They called on Mr. Modi and explained to him the need to protect the interests of Telangana – water, jobs and funds.

47-day sports festival kicks off across A.P. in 9,000 venues

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy declared open the 47-day sports festival 'Aadudam Andhra' that would be held across the State till February 10, 2024.

As part of the inauguration, the Chief Minister handed over the ceremonial torch to the players.

Inaugurating the sports festival at the Loyola Public School grounds at Nallapadu in Guntur district on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said: "The government is organising the sports festival with two objectives in mind – as a massive fitness exercise for the youth and to identify youth with potential and encourage them.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense/very dense fog likely in many/some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh; and in isolated pockets of north Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha and north Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.2	16.0	Kozhikode	—	35.3	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	30.3	15.5	Kurnool	—	32.4	18.0
Aizawl	—	26.5	14.6	Lucknow	—	24.0	11.2
Allahabad	—	24.8	10.6	Madurai	—	32.2	22.1
Bengaluru	—	29.0	17.0	Mangaluru	—	34.0	23.5
Bhopal	—	29.7	13.4	Mumbai	—	35.7	18.7
Bhubaneswar	—	30.2	16.9	Mysuru	—	30.2	26.5
Chandigarh	—	22.1	8.8	New Delhi	—	23.8	7.0
Chennai	0.1	30.7	21.9	Patna	—	25.9	13.7
Coimbatore	—	30.6	20.6	Port Blair	—	31.0	27.2
Dehradun	—	23.1	7.0	Puducherry	0.1	30.4	22.0
Gangtok	—	16.2	8.6	Pune	—	33.5	12.3
Goa	—	35.3	21.6	Raipur	—	29.4	14.7
Guwahati	—	27.4	14.0	Ranchi	—	25.4	11.4
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.0	7.0
Hyderabad	—	30.6	15.6	Shimla	—	19.4	9.0
Imphal	—	22.8	12.1	Srinagar	—	9.2	-3.0
Jaipur	—	26.4	10.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.3	23.6
Kochi	—	34.5	25.4	Tiruchi	—	31.7	22.0
Kohima	—	16.6	6.8	Vijayawada	—	29.8	21.0
Kolkata	—	27.0	16.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	9	.51	259	223	
Bengaluru	4	31	.53	73	113	
Chennai	8	12	.75	75	79	
Delhi	.16	116	.88	428	404	
Hyderabad	6	25	.57	258	—	
Kolkata	9	7	.55	249	174	
Lucknow	8	.51	106	317	201	
Mumbai	.30	113	.31	276	234	
Pune	119	178	111	337	222	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.60	.45	199	149	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 408 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಸಿಂದಗಿ
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಸಿಂ/ಅಭಿಕೆ/377/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.12.2023

ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: **Construction of CC Road and RCC Drain at Main Market Yard of APMC Sindagi. (Under RIDF-29 Scheme) Indent No: APMC/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT165** ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **2,53,46,283/–** (GSTಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **3,80,000/–**

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (E-Portal)ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗಧಿಸಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/349/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Ganga", Kalaburagi-585 106, Karnataka
Office No.: 08472-263202 Fax: 08472-263206,
E-mail : registrargug@rediffmail.com

No.GUK/ACA/PG-Admission/ Press Note/2023-24/450
Date: 26.12.2023

NOTIFICATION FOR FINAL ROUND OF PG ADMISSIONS FOR VACANT SEATS 2023-24

Important Dates: 1) Commencement of Application downloading : **27.12.2023 to 29.12.2023,** 2) Admission on along with relevant documents to the concerned : **30.12.2023**

Criteria for seeking admission, schedule and counseling process, please refer Gulbarga University, **website:https://gug.ac.in/**

Sd/- Registrar
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/620/KSMC&A/2023-24

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION

website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Tender is invited for the work of Remodelling of Water Supply distribution system to left out areas of Kadur & Birur Towns of Chickmagaluru District under AMRUT 2.0 including O & M for a period of 5 years through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Mode, for the Indent No: KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT97, with **A.P.T: Rs.2243.79 Lakhs** through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). **Further details may be obtained through KPPP.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/817/2023-24

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಪರದಕಲ್ಲು (ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ), ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ–562110
email: eerdwsd.bngrl@gmail.com Phone: 080-29787463 (M) 9448367736

ಸಂ: ಕಾಅ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀನೈವಿ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023–24/1144 ದಿ: 28.12.2023

ಕೆಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 12/2023–24 ದಿ: 26.12.2023
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (KPPP Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ **ಕಿರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು (I)–9, ಕಿರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು (2) 5, ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್–6, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು–2, ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ–5, ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ–1 (ಒಟ್ಟು–28)** ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು 12 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ) ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ಪವರ್ ಏಜನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಕರಾರು ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕರಾರು ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳು ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ರಜೆ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ) ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26.12.2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ** 2. ಭರ್ತಿಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **10.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.** 3. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11.01.2024 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.05 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.** 4. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **12.01.2024 ಸಮಯ : ಸಂಜೆ 4.05 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ
DIPR/CP/2719/SPAN/2023-24

FORM RSC-4

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU

In the Matter of Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the Matter of
WIPRO ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
CP No. 128/ BB/2023

WIPRO ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U15141KA2010PTC054808
Reg. Office: Wipro House
No. 8, 7th Main,80 Feet Road Koramangala,1st Block
Bengaluru - 560 034, Karnataka

...PETITIONER COMPANY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that CP No. 128/BB/2023 is filed on 10.11.2023 ('**Company Petition**') and was presented before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench ('**Hon'ble Tribunal**') on December 07, 2023, for confirming the reduction of Share Capital of **WIPRO ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED** ('**Company**'). The Petitioner Company is seeking the approval for the reduction in the share capital from Rs. 483,66,21,630/- (Rupees Four Hundred Eighty Three Crores Sixty Six Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Only) consisting of 48,36,62,163 (Forty Eight Crores Thirty Six Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Three Only) equity shares of Rs. 10/- each to Rs. 483,65,81,190/- (Rupees Four Hundred Eighty Three Crores Sixty Five Lakhs Eighty One Thousand One Hundred and Ninety only) consisting of 48,36,58,119 (Forty Eight Crores Thirty Six Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Nineteen only) equity shares of Rs. 10/- each by cancelling and extinguishing the paid up equity share capital of Rs. 40,440/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Only) divided into 4,044 (Four Thousand Forty Four) equity shares of Rs. 10/- each held by the non-promoter shareholders of the Petitioner Company representing in aggregate approximately 0.00083% (zero point zero zero zero eight three percent) of the total issued, subscribed and paid-up equity share capital of the Petitioner Company.The Board has considered the Valuation Report and the Fairness Opinion and is of the view that a consideration of Rs. 1,654/- (One Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four Only) per equity share, represents the fair value, as determined by the Independent Valuer and also includes a premium of 4.55% (four point five five percent) over and above the fair value of the equity shares of the Petitioner Company, i.e. Rs. 1,582/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Two Only), as determined in the Valuation Report.

The Company has no Secured Creditor and 2789 Unsecured Creditor and notice in Form RSC-3 is issued to the Unsecured Creditors of the Company having outstanding above Rs.10,00,000/- representing 98.62% of the total unsecured creditors in value. The list of creditors prepared as on October 31, 2023 by the Company is available at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection on all working days during 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. till the next hearing date, i.e; 14.03.2024.

If any creditor of the Company has any objection to the Company Petition or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorized Representative, if any, to the undersigned at SPJ Legal, Unit No 306, 3rd Floor, #30, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru – 560 001 before the hearing date, ie; 14.03.2024

In case no objection or representation is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above Company Petition to reduce the share capital of the Company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for 14th Day of March 2024, on which date the Hon'ble Tribunal shall hear the Company Petition. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing, they should make a request along with the objections, if any, to the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Dated this 27th day of December at Bengaluru

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal Advocates
Unit No. 306, 03rd Floor
#30, Prestige Meridian II,,MG Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph:098452 09798, E-mail: saji@spjlegal.com

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ **BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY**
Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001.Ph.No.080-22961016 / 22131385, E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in

Tender No: BCU/2023-24/SE0001 Date: 26.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement portal only)

Name of the work	**Providing housekeeping services, garden maintenances, night shift security guard services to Bengaluru City University, Central College Campus Bengaluru**
EMD	**Rs. 5,50,000/-**
Last Date For Queries	**29.12.2023 Up to 12.00hrs.**
Pre bid meeting date and place	**02.01.2024 at 12.00 hrs Registrar's Office, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
Last date for submission of Tender	**10.01.2024 Up to 16.00hrs.**
Opening of the Technical Bid	**11.01.2024 at 16.30hrs.**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
Registrar
DIPR/CP/2718/SSC/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, our client viz., **Sri. K. C. Nagesh Reddy** is the absolute owner of the land bearing **Sy. No. 39 & 41/3, situated at Kada Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.** Our client had lost/misplaced the below mentioned Original Documents pertaining to the aforesaid Property. Our client has lodged the Police Complaint in concerned Police Station vide Lost Report No. 0862713/2023, dated 26.12.2023 and No. 0862767/2023, dated 26.12.2023 respectively. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title & interest over the above said Property or on below mentioned original documents may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within 10 days from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that below mentioned original documents are lost and our client and successors in interest or any other person/s claiming under it/him are free to deal with above said Property, as if no valid claims are subsisting against above said Property.

It is hereby informed that, the General Public are restrained from transacting the above said Property except our client or his nominees/successors in interest. If any person holding the below mentioned Documents may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.

LIST OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:

Sl. No	Date	Description of Documents
		SY. NO. 39
1.		**Sale deed 05.07.1944 executed by Sri. Papaiah s/o Chooda in favour of Sri. Thimmaiah s/o Kurubara Kempaiah, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 3 Acres 39 Guntas. Doc. No. 110/1944- 45**
2.		**Sale deed dated 02.11.1951 executed by Sri. Ajjappa s/o Thimmaiah in favour of Sri. Papaiah s/o Choodappa, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 3 Acres 39 Guntas. Doc. No. 1721/1951- 52.**
3.		**Sale deed dated 10.05.1960 executed by Sri. Papaiah s/o Choodappa in favour of Sri. Munishami Reddy s/o Nanjunda Reddy @ Doddabbaiah, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 3 Acres 39 Guntas. Doc. No. 533/1960-61.**
4.		**Sale deed executed by Sri. Munishami Reddy Nanjunda Reddy @ Doddabbaiah in favour of Sri. Papaiah s/o Choodappa, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 3 Acres 39 Guntas. Doc. No. 530/1969- 70.**
5.		**Sale deed dated 01.11.1969 executed by Sri. Papaiah s/o Choodappa in favour of Sri. Vanada Muniyappa s/o Giriyappa, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre Doc. No. 2077/1969- 70**
6.		**Partition deed dated 23.07.1985 affected amongst Sri. Venkataramanappa, Sri. Hanumanthappa & Sri. Krishnappa (all sons of Vanada Muniyappa) with respect to Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre.**
7.		**Panchayath Palupatti dated 10.03.1990 affected amongst the legal heirs of Late. Papaiah viz., Sri. Narayanappa, Sri. K. P. Muniswamy & Sri. Appodappa with respect to Sy. No. 39, measuring to an extent of 2 Acres 39 Guntas.**
		SY. NO. 41/3
1.		**Sale deed dated 22.05.1946 executed by Sri. Maddura s/o Hanuma in favour of Sri. Agadurappa s/o Kempaiah, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 41/3, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 28 Guntas. Doc. No. 332/1946- 47**
2.		**Sale deed dated 11.06.1951 executed by Sri. Agadurappa s/o Kempaiah in favour of by Sri. Maddura s/o Hanuma, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 41/3, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 20 Guntas. Doc. No. 743/1951- 52**
3.		**Sale deed dated 22.05.1946 executed by Sri. Kallallappa s/o Maddura in favour of Sri. K. S. Narayanareddy s/o Sunkareddy, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 41/3, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre. Doc. No. 3133/1972- 73**
4.		**Sale deed dated 21.06.1974 executed by Sri. K. S. Narayanareddy s/o Sunkareddy in favour of Sri. Kallallappa s/o Maddura, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 41/3, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre. Doc. No. 1051/1974- 75**
5.		**Sale deed dated 27.07.1987 executed by Sri. Kallallappa s/o Maddura and his son Sri. Bajjappa in favour of Sri. Papa Reddy s/o Ayyappa with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 41/3, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 28 Guntas. Doc. No. 756/1987- 88**
6.		**Mutation Register MR. NO. 2/1987-88**

And whereas anyone finding the above documents, is hereby requested to hand over the same to the undersigned person at the address below mentioned.

Dated this 27 th day of December 2023 at Bangalore

M/s. LEGAL NEXUS,
Advocates and Consultants,
No. 428, First Floor, 24 th Main, 25 th Cross, HSR Layout. Sector 2, Bangalore – 560 102, Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

Agricultural Produce Market Committee.Belur
E-mail ID: secapmcblr@rediffmail.com Ph.No. 08177-222280
No. /APMC/B/370/2023-24 Date: 21.12.2023

Brief Tender Notification (Only through e-procurement system)

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Belur Invites Itemwise Tender in two covers system to be submitted through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999, 2000 Rules and as per related order, circular issued in Public Works Department and e-procurement portal and eligible as per Standard Tender Documents KW-4 Clause 3 (with latest amendments). name of the work" Construction of CC Road, Toilet in Hagare & Coverd Auction Platform in Gendehalli Sandy Market Approved under Nabard RIDF-29(2023-24) Work Indent No.APMC/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT155 Tender amount of works is Rs.12604247=19 E.M.D Amount is Rs.189100=00 and date of Pre-bid meeting: 03.01.2014 at 11.00 AM. Last date for receipt of filled technical and financial documents: 08.01.2024 at 5.30Pm , Date of opening technical bid: 10.01.2024 at 11.30 AM Further details can be obtiained through website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.inor during office hours.

Sd/-Secretary, APMC, Belur **Sd/-Administrator, APMC, Belur**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಬಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/588/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/594/2023–24

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಬಾದಾಮಿ
ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ರೋಡ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ–587 201
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ apmcbadami22@gmail.com ದೂ:220142, 220042
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ ನಂ:(08357)220142

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಬ):ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/544/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21–12–2023

ಃ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಃ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಬಾದಾಮಿಯ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್.–29 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಕೆರೂರ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಂಪೌಂಡಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 250.65 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 3.76 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅನ್ವಯ ಸದರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು KW-4 ರನ್ವಯ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

APMC/2023-24/RD/ WORK_INDENT163

➢ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06–01–2024 ವೇಳೆ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಬಾದಾಮಿ.
➢ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:08–01–2024ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
➢ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:10–01–2024 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
➢ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–01–2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

Law of numbers

The government should not use its majority to rush through legislation

The 18-day winter session of Parliament that was adjourned *sine die* on December 21 marked a new low in India's parliamentary democracy as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party refused to engage with the Opposition, evaded executive accountability and passed a battery of Bills with far-reaching consequences for the country while a majority of the Opposition members remained suspended. In the final count, a total of 146 Members of Parliament (MP) from the Opposition bloc were suspended – 46 of the Rajya Sabha, and 100 of the Lok Sabha, as they clamoured for a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on a breach of security that involved protesters gaining entry into the chamber of the Lok Sabha on December 13. The rift lingers, as Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Vice-President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, terming the suspension of Opposition MP as "predetermined and premeditated" by the government. The absence of any application of mind was evident, Mr. Kharge has written, recalling that an MP who was not even present in the Lok Sabha, was among those suspended. The Chairs of both the Houses could not ensure smooth conduct of the session. Attempts made by Mr. Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla lacked the requisite imprimatur of impartiality.

It was in the absence of a majority of the Opposition members that the government passed new laws that rewrite the criminal code of the country, regulation of telecommunication and the appointment of the Election Commission of India. The common feature of these laws is an unprecedented increase in the power of the executive, and it is not a coincidence that they were passed without a meaningful parliamentary debate that took on board conflicting views. The government refused even the Opposition demand for a statement on the security breach, in a show of obstinacy that equates numerical majority with logical and moral infallibility. The government has blamed the Opposition for bringing the suspensions upon itself, and this position has been echoed by the Speaker and the Chairman. The case of the alleged mimicry of Mr. Dhankhar by an Opposition MP was a distraction that was convenient for the ruling party. Mr. Dhankhar himself told the Rajya Sabha that the alleged mimicry was an insult to his community, a dismaying correlation to be made by anyone, let alone a legal luminary such as himself. It is another matter whether the Opposition should have invested so much time and effort in asking for a debate on the security breach by a few misguided youths. The effect, if not the objective, of it all was to derail parliamentary functioning and obtain a free pass for the executive.

A case of revanchism

Courts should not stray from the constitutional vision of secularism

The judiciary should not be seen as legitimising recurring, communally motivated attempts to change the status of places of worship. In yet another order that may end up expediting the project of converting a mosque into a temple by indirect means, the Allahabad High Court has ruled that a set of suits filed in 1991 for a declaration that a part of the site of the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi as the property of Lord Vishweshwar is not barred by law. The court has decided, as it had done earlier on a 2022 suit by a group of Hindu worshippers, that the old suits are not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which invalidates legal proceedings that may lead to altering the status of any place of worship as it stood on August 15, 1947. In what seems to be specious reasoning, the court has held that the Act is not applicable as the "religious character" of the structure is yet to be determined. In other words, instead of nipping the cunning piece of litigation in the bud, the court has allowed a full civil trial to decide whether the structure in the Gyanvapi compound is a mosque or a temple and stated that unless this status is determined based on evidence, it cannot be called a temple or a mosque. Such an approach may only end up driving modern society into a revanchist mindset seeking to avenge medieval depredations.

In the case of the 2022 suits by women worshippers, the court had noted that the proceedings were aimed at asserting a right to worship the deities on the mosque precincts, and not to convert it into a temple. However, the 1991 suits explicitly seek a declaration that the main part of the site is a mosque and also want the mosque administrators to remove all their religious effects. Despite this explicit relief being sought, the court has chosen to treat it as a suit that is maintainable and not barred by the Places of Worship Act. The order has also upheld the order for a survey of the premises by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), but asked for the ASI survey done on the basis of the 2022 suits for the purpose of deciding the 1991 suits also. It has provided for a further survey, if necessary. What is disconcerting in the High Court order is that it claims that the dispute raised in the case is "of vital national importance". This is an astounding claim for a judicial institution to make while adjudicating litigation between two parties. The judiciary must stay committed to the constitutional vision of secularism and enforce the statutory bar on converting or reconverting the status of places of worship.

The outlook for 2024, for the world and India

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

What is apparent as 2024 dawns is that global risks and uncertainties are only likely to increase, reminding us that we are living in a time of great peril. The new year can be expected to be even less safe and uncertain than the previous two years. An unfortunate aspect is that the existing order is being challenged as much by architects of the 'rules based international order', as it is by persons who declare it outdated.

Again, existing geostrategic contradictions are likely to intensify. The war in Ukraine, though stalemated at present, could well become highly combustible as 2024 progresses. A Biden victory in the United States presidential election may well depend on the way the war in Ukraine turns, as a decisive defeat for Putin's Russia, (even though this appears unlikely at present), would boost his chances. Ukraine's Zelensky, conscious of the sagging support for Ukraine in Europe and elsewhere, could well attempt 'a last throw of the dice', and resort to desperate measures. Mr. Putin, for his part, may be tempted to go to extremes (not excluding resort to sub-optimal nuclear weapons) to secure a victory in Ukraine.

A heating up of the Middle East cauldron, caused by Hamas's unprovoked assault on Israel on October 7 this year, again has the potential to light a 'prairie fire' in 2024. This could singe many more countries in West Asia. The situation is not helped by the West's 'hypocrisy', which seeks to draw a fine distinction between the violence practised by Hamas, and the 'precise targeting' of so-called Hamas troublemakers by Israel and the western alliance. The situation is already accelerating changes in the geopolitics of West Asia, where battle lines are gradually shifting: Iran-Russia-China are already extending support to nations across West Asia, thus challenging the West's (essentially U.S.) leadership of the global strategic commons. It could have an impact well beyond West Asia as well. In this backdrop, the West would be well advised to act with care in other regions (such as the Indo-Pacific) to avoid upsetting the existing strategic balance.

For India, 2024 holds out many possibilities. The general election is scheduled for mid-2024, and the ruling dispensation is displaying reasonable confidence about the outcome, greatly buoyed by its recent election victories in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. This does not, however, preclude the existence of some 'black swans', which may need to be attended to, specially as far as the economy is concerned.

Keeping track of China, the region

Sino-Indian relations will remain stalemated during much of 2024, with neither side displaying any accommodation of each other's view point. China remains convinced that India is already a part of the U.S.-dominated anti-China alliance (however misplaced this perception might be), which is acting as a major impediment to any improvement in relations. A direct confrontation between India and China, however, appears unlikely during 2024. Even if China's economy continues to decline, and the West harps on this fact as an index of diminution of China's influence across the region and beyond, there is a slender possibility of China embarking upon some 'adventurist actions' in the Sino-Indian border regions. Mao's unprovoked aggression against India in 1962 in the wake of the failure of his Great Leap Forward Movement in 1958 is, however, something that the Indian establishment needs to keep in mind at all times.

India's external relations in some other areas also merit attention in 2024. For instance, if the Russia-China axis becomes even stronger as 2024 progresses, with a concomitant weakening of Russia-India ties, it will have a direct impact on India's relations with, and accessibility to, Central Asia. India will need to avoid such a situation.

In its immediate neighbourhood again, India may face an uncertain situation in 2024. Relations with Afghanistan, which have been virtually non-existent for some time, will remain much the same. Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives have recently come under pressure from China, and this has the potential of reducing their dependence on India.

In West Asia, with the possible exception of the United Arab Emirates, India's influence appears to be diminishing. As more West Asian countries break free from the clutches of the West, and tend to gravitate towards China and Russia, India's position in the region will become even more tenuous.

Existing geostrategic contradictions are likely to intensify, while India may face an inflection point

Internal dynamics

The internal situation will require very careful watching. The atmosphere is certain to be highly surcharged, with both the ruling and Opposition forces preparing for a 'no holds barred' electoral battle. A 'veneer' of calm masks the intensity of feelings that exist. What is also evident is the extent to which factors such as caste loyalties are dominating the landscape today. What is not evident on the surface is the extent to which social engineering and social fragmentation are being utilised to divide social groups; how electoral autocracy is tending to overwhelm all other factors; and how little or no debate is taking place on key issues of common concern. Artificial Intelligence can be expected to play a larger and a key role this time, to enhance power dynamics of certain groups.

Both in terms of perception and debate, there appears to be an increasing bias towards unitary rather than federal aspects of India's diversified Constitution.

A pronounced tilt in the case of certain parties to favour a regimented approach to issues and situations, and a bias towards increased centralisation of authority, leaving little or lesser room for manoeuvre at the State level, is also increasingly evident.

Notwithstanding the outcome of the general election, all signs, hence, point to a turbulent period ahead. Parliament, already in disarray, will continue to function in this manner during the whole of 2024. The stand-off in the wake of the recent breach of security in Parliament is a good index of the prevailing mood, and there are few signs that this will change.

An absence of any give or take, evident in the case of the expulsion of the Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament, Mahua Moitra, is a reflection of the current mood in Parliament, where most decisions are based on brute majority. Governors in many States also increasingly demonstrate palpable recalcitrance, aggravating the hiatus between the States and the Centre. All this leaves little slack for improvement in the situation.

The nation may, hence, be approaching an inflection point in 2024. A test case will be how the nation deals with the situation deriving from the recent Supreme Court of India judgment upholding the power of the President of India to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, together with the reasoning that Article 370 was 'a transitional provision 'due to war like conditions that prevailed in parts of the country'. It could well open a Pandora's box of contentious issues, providing additional ammunition for conflict.

Centre-State ties

All this demands that incumbent political parties at the Centre and in the States have a rethink on what needs to be done in the extant circumstances. Most Opposition parties and several Opposition-led State governments are conditioned to think that opposing the Centre is the *sine qua non* of their existence, and that they have no obligations, or need, in the present context, to play a more constructive role. State governments have several core advantages in both political and economic matters which could come into play at this juncture. But this is not likely to happen. The Centre, for its part, needs to better comprehend the importance of improved Central-State relations, recognising that the Centre is stronger when the States are too; if both are together, they can deliver a better value proposition that neither can provide on its own. Inherently, all this involves a better understanding of newer forces at play and of the new realities of power. Whether this will happen in 2024, however, seems highly doubtful.

A new economics for inclusive growth

Arun Maira

is former Member, Planning Commission and Chairman, Boston Consulting Group India

In their book, *Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future*, Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba recommend that India give up its policies to build its manufacturing sector and jump straight to export more high-end services. This is surprising because this is what India has been trying to do in the last 30 years, with very poor outcomes. Insufficient jobs and incomes are the Achilles heel of India's economy.

The signs are visible outside economists' datasets, in the social and political arenas. Farmers are demanding better prices and informal sector workers and contract workers, fair wages and social security. The economy cannot be in good shape when 60% of Indians, cutting across castes and religions, are classified as "economically weaker sections" entitled to job reservations.

A growth-affecting mismatch

The obstacle tripping India's growth is the mismatch between skills, jobs, and incomes. Twenty years ago when, supposedly, "India was Shining", economists thought India had leapfrogged manufacturing in the development ladder, in which, traditionally, masses first transition from agriculture to manufacturing and then to services. China lifted its masses from poverty by moving them up the ladder into a large manufacturing sector, becoming the factory of the world. Now, China is producing world-beating technology champions.

India invested in world-class institutions of science and engineering 70 years ago. The Indian Institutes of Technology enabled India's software industry to become a globally competitive force. They also produced CEOs for U.S. multinational companies. India's space programme is delivering results at a fraction of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's costs. However, India's pattern of growth, with investments in high-end skills, has not generated enough decent jobs for India's masses.

Delivering the 2010 Lionel Robbins Memorial Lectures, British economist Adair Turner pointed out that too much reality was being left out of economists' models for them to explain the world. With a twist of Keynes' statement that "practical men ...are usually the slaves of some defunct economist", he warned that the "great danger lies (now) with reasonably intellectual men and women employed in the policy-making departments of central banks and governments who tend to gravitate to simplified versions of the dominant beliefs of economists who are still very much alive."

The obstacle tripping India's growth is the mismatch between skills, jobs and incomes

The realities are being missed

Economic theories developed by analysing numbers miss realities. Most economists do not understand the process of "learning" (which is the essence of "development") whereby citizens learn new skills and increase their incomes, and nations acquire capabilities they did not have before. An agricultural worker is willing to apply his intelligence and labour to a new job; but cannot take much time off from working and earning to learn new skills. Therefore, his next job, though different in content, must be close enough to his capabilities for him to take the leap from one to the other and then continue to increase his skills on the job. If the next job is near his present habitation, he will save living costs too. Therefore, "adjacencies" in work and location in rural areas are the best steps for climbing the skill-income ladder. They also create dense webs of economic activity.

Manufacturing is performed not only in large, capital-intensive smart-phone factories, and value-adding services not only in large software factories. Manufacturing and value-added services can be carried out in rural areas and around farms, in small, labour-intensive, and low-capital, enterprises, for processing agricultural produce and transporting and selling it in nearby markets. Such enterprises add value to agricultural commodities locally, without requiring their transportation to more distant, large-scale processing centres.

Targets of trillions of dollars of GDP will not be achieved if economic growth does not become inclusive and sustainable very soon. The pattern of economic growth must be changed. More Indians must be employed so that they can earn and learn and, by earning more, increase the market for more producers. India cannot afford to neglect its small-scale and informal manufacturing sector any longer. While India has abundant resources of willing human beings, large, capital-intensive, factories require more land and financial capital to operate on scale – resources which are relatively scarce in India.

Make more for India, in India

Investing in education and skills for "high end" manufacturing and services will not benefit the masses if they cannot be employed. Richness of economic activity within local webs will create more sustainable growth than policies to participate in long, international supply chains when barriers are rising. The Indian state has limited financial capacity. It cannot afford to misspend it, by reducing taxes and duties and giving incentives to investors, with the expectation that benefits will gush down to the masses. More imports will not increase the well-being of Indian citizens if they do not have more incomes to buy. Foreign direct investment will not boost growth if it does not increase employment soon.

The mould in which economics was cast in the later part of the 20th century must be broken. Policymakers must reimagine the path for India's growth. They must get down to the basics of inclusive economic growth. There are no shortcuts.

The global economy is not growing like it was when China became the factory for the world. Producers everywhere are looking for new markets. India, with its unmet needs is very attractive for them. India's policies must take advantage of this opportunity and make more for India in India, thus growing both jobs and incomes for India's masses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 'immigration' case

There are more questions than answers in the case of the detention of 303 air passengers in France (Inside pages, December 26), said to have been bound for Nicaragua. It is not clear how the passengers were let off after landing in Mumbai after normal questioning. Stranger still is that there were "11 unaccompanied minors". Who are their parents or guardians? Why were minors headed to Nicaragua unaccompanied?

The airline's reply of a "partner company" that chartered the flight being responsible for verifying the identity papers of the passengers seems evasive. On what basis did some passengers seek asylum in France? And, why were a few passengers taken in for questioning? There have been no inputs from the Indian High Commission in France. There is something very suspicious about the entire episode and its quick resolution.

There needs to be a proper media investigation.

S. Parthasarathy,
Chennai

Conduct by representatives

It did not behove well for an (Opposition) MP to be mimicking the mannerisms of the Rajya Sabha Chairman. That some senior Opposition leaders gave a thumbs up to this denarian-type of act is deplorable. Although the insinuation that the mimicry demeaned and hurt the feelings of the farming and Jat communities is far-fetched, people expect more responsible and determined behaviour from the Opposition MPs, especially when electoral authoritarianism is baring its fangs.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Development led by corporates, not women

Brinda Karat
is a member of the CPI(M) Polit Bureau

The G20 Summit in Delhi adopted a Declaration which resolved to set up a "working group on the empowerment of women." Given the continuing discrimination against women and girls, this is welcome. But by and large, "working groups" formed in the past have not been implemented. For example, the Sustainable Development Goals have specific targets to address gender gaps. However, as the Declaration itself admits, "At the midway point to 2030, the global progress on SDGs is off-track with only 12% of the targets on track."

A vague phrase

The Gender Equality section says, "We encourage women-led development and remain committed to enhancing women's full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation as decision makers for addressing global challenges inclusively and in contributing as active participants in all spheres of society, across all sectors and at all levels of the economy..." The phrase 'women-led development' is striking and is the contribution of the Government of India. But there is no explanation of what this actually means.

This is not an issue of semantics. When phrases like 'women-led development' are used, leaders need to describe the parameters of such a development process, which are different from 'non women-led' development models. The truth is that the development models adopted by countries describing themselves as democracies (mainly developed countries in the West) have led to obscene inequalities between countries, between the rich and the poor within countries, and between men and women. The core of this model remains the discredited 'trickle down theory' in which big business continues to enjoy state subsidies through tax concessions, bank loan write-offs, subsidies in land availability, and cross-country concessions for the free movement of finance capital on the premise that all this will lead to more investment, creation of employment, and so on. The 'no governance is good governance' model has removed government regulation, dismantled and sold off public assets, and privatised strategic industries. All this has been done in the name of reforms. The G20 Declaration reiterates this commitment. It says, "We recognise the critical role of private enterprise in accelerating growth and driving sustainable economic transformations." If the macro model of development remains the same, where does women-led development fit in?

On March 7, the bulletin of the Press Information Bureau listed government schemes meant to benefit women under the headline 'From Women Development to Women-led Development.' Just as reform is the cover for aggressive profit maximising models of capitalism, women-led development schemes conceal the reality of decreasing government investment in projects and schemes meant for women's development. The Gender Budget was started in 2005-2006. What was meant to be a tool to plug the gaps through prioritised investment has been reduced to an accounting exercise. It has two parts. Part A includes schemes which are 100% for women and Part B includes all government schemes where at least one-third of the expenditure is supposedly for women. Women-led development should mean a substantial increase in the total amount of the Gender Budget. It should also reflect in a much bigger component in the expenditure in Part A rather than Part B. However, on both counts, the opposite trend dominates. The total Gender Budget for 2023-2024 was reduced from 5.2% of the total expenditure the previous year to 5%. On average, there has been no substantial increase in the Gender Budget since its inception, which has remained between 4% and 6%.

The G20 Declaration says it encourages 'women-led development' but data show that women are not being paid enough for their work

What is of greater concern is that, in 2023-24, the year that the phrase 'women-led development' was used, the expenditure in Part A was at its lowest at around 39% of the total, while Part B made up 61% of expenditure of the Gender Budget. In other words, wholly women-specific schemes are just about 40% of an already inadequate budgetary allocation.

Economic independence

A critical area recognised as being a prerequisite for women's development is her economic independence. However, the share of women in regular waged work fell in India, according to an analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), from 21.9% in 2018-2019 to 15.9% in 2022-2023. Over 95% of women are in the unorganised sector with no job or income security. Most women are employed in flagship schemes of the Central government. Almost one crore women work in Anganwadis, as ASHA workers, as mid-day meal scheme workers, as facilitators, and so on. However, they are the most exploited, they are paid 'allowances" which are below even minimum wages, and not recognised as government employees. According to the PLFS survey, the share of women engaged in agriculture has increased to 64.3% in 2022-23 from 55.3% in 2018-19. This is mainly unpaid work on family farms. The budgetary allocations for paid work mandated by law in rural work projects through MGNREGA has been drastically cut down by the Central government. This mostly has a negative impact on women who constitute between 50% to 80% of workers in several States.

The reality is that women, particularly Dalits and Adivasis, are bearing the brunt of the economic policies of the Central regime of handing over the national resources to the richest 1% who now control over 40% of the country's wealth. This is corporate-led development, certainly not women-led.

Nitish's rediscovery of Bharat

Thwarted ambitions or bulwark against BJP? His anti-English rhetoric is perhaps both

STATE OF PLAY

Amit Bhelari
amit.bhelari@thehindu.co.in

Over the past year, Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar has been acquiring a reputation for frequent public outbursts, often followed by lengthy apologies. He has lashed out at several people, including current and former political allies, bureaucrats, and even a farmer, over various issues.

However, the use of English instead of Hindi has drawn his ire the most. The Bihar Chief Minister lost his cool in public meetings over the use of English on at least four occasions this year, most recently at the meeting of the INDIA bloc in Delhi on December 19. As per sources, he fumed when DMK Lok Sabha MP T.R. Baalu asked for a translation of his Hindi speech. Mr. Kumar reportedly said Hindi is the national language and everyone should be able to understand it. He launched into details of the freedom struggle and the 'imposition' of English.

Earlier in February, Mr. Kumar shouted at a farmer for speaking in English during a programme organised by the Agriculture Department.

The following month, he expressed displeasure at Bihar Legislative Council Chairperson Devesh Chandra Thakur after seeing an LED screen inside the Council displaying information in English. "What is the point? *Hindi ko khatm kar dijiyega kya* [Do you intend to finish off Hindi]?" the JD(U) leader had said.

And in September, at an event to inaugurate a hospital in Bihar's Banka district, Mr. Kumar lost his cool again over the use of English signboards within the hospital premises.

Mr. Kumar's recurring public disapproval of English comes against the backdrop of an intense struggle to hold on to his rural social base comprising people mostly from Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs). The State has produced several social justice leaders for whom anti-English, pro-Hindi rhetoric was a staple. However, the issue may not resonate as widely today among the EBCs, many of whom see English as a vehicle for upward social and economic mobility.

Mr. Kumar owes a lot to socialist leaders such as Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpoori Thakur, who advocated the use of the native language so that people deprived of an English-medium education do not feel excluded from public life. Thakur had even launched a campaign against English called 'Angrezi Hatao', with the slogan '*Angrezi mein kaam na hoga, phir se desh ghulam na hoga* [There will be no work in English; the country won't be enslaved again]'. As Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister, Thakur had in 1967 also abolished the need to pass the paper on English at the matriculation level, which is a rule that exists in the State till today. Such was the prevailing sentiment against the language that all English typewriters were removed from the Secretariat in 1972.

Mr. Kumar has lately shot off his mouth on subjects other than English as well. Last month, he spoke on the issue of family planning in the Assembly, sparking controversy, with many terming his speech "culturally inappropriate". He had to apologise for his remarks on the floor of the House the following day.

Two days later, again in the Assembly, he fulminated against former Chief Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular founder Jitan Ram Manjhi, saying it was due to his [Mr. Kumar's] "stupidity" that he had made Mr. Manjhi the Chief Minister.

Then there is the question of Mr. Kumar's role in the INDIA bloc. Many JD(U) leaders have projected their party chief as a prospective convener of the Opposition alliance and its prime ministerial candidate, even as Mr. Kumar has denied harbouring such ambitions. Such a role has eluded him so far.

Some political observers believe that Mr. Kumar is frustrated over the continuous pressure from Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the ruling alliance partner in Bihar, to hand over the State's reins to Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav. After Mr. Kumar snapped ties with the BJP last year and came to power with the help of the RJD, there were talks that he would leave the Chief Minister's chair for Mr. Yadav after serving for six months. However, more than a year has passed and the public attacks on Mr. Kumar by some RJD leaders over the issue have only intensified.

Other observers, however, believe that the veteran socialist, who learnt English as an engineering student, is reviving the old line partly as a cultural antidote to the BJP's Hindutva politics.

The state of Indian chess at the end of 2023

As two Indians qualify for the 2024 Candidates Tournament and one more is on the verge of joining them, Indian chess continues its forward march

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

The year 2023 was yet another good one for Indian chess. Two chess stalwarts – Grandmasters (GMs) R. Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi – qualified to play in the 2024 Candidates Tournament which will determine the challenger to the current World Champion, Ding Liren, of China.

Praggnanandhaa managed to qualify by finishing runner-up in the Chess World Cup held in July-August 2023. Magnus Carlsen, the highest-rated player in chess today, won that tournament.

Vidit scored an emphatic victory in the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament held in October-November 2023 to secure a place in the eight-player Candidates Tournament along with 2023 World Championship runner-up Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia; Carlsen, the five-time World Champion who is expected to withdraw as he has expressed no interest in contending for that crown again; Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura of the U.S.; and Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan, if Carlsen withdraws.

Two other slots are available in the Candidates Tournament. Caruana leads the 2023 FIDE Circuit, a system comprising the top chess tournaments in 2023, but he has already qualified via the Chess World Cup. This has opened up the possibility for Indian GM, D. Gukesh, to qualify as he is ranked second in the Circuit after winning the highest ELO-rated tournament held in India, the Chennai Grand Masters, last week. However, Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi can still upend Gukesh's chances if he wins the World Rapid Championship, which is to be held from December 26 to 28. And GM Anish Giri of the Netherlands can also take this spot if he features in the Top 3 of the Rapid Championship or finishes first in the World Blitz Championship.

Gukesh has one foot in the door leading to the Candidates Tournament even after enduring a roller-coaster of a year when he became the top-rated Indian GM and then lost ELO points due to relatively poor performances in the Grand Swiss tournament, among others. Gukesh is set to end 2023 as India No. 5 behind the semi-retired Viswanathan Anand, Praggnanandhaa, Vidit, and Arjun (**Table 2**).

The last slot for the candidates (**Table 1**) will be awarded to the highest FIDE-rated player left.

If Gukesh or Arjun make it to the Candidates Tournament, there will be three Indians in the eight-player tournament, allowing for a chance for another Indian world champion since Anand won it five times before Carlsen began his era of domination.

This will be the icing on the cake in yet another strong year for Indian chess, with six Indians having an ELO rating above 2700, and veteran GM P. Harikrishna being the sixth. GMs SL Narayanan (live ELO: 2694.2) and Nihal Sarin (2692.6) also came close to the Super GM mark, while GMs Aravindh Chithambaram (2662.3), Raunak Sadhwani (2654) and Abhimanyu Puranik (2640.4) also managed to reach the top 100 players list, ensuring 11 Indians in the list, second only to Russia's 12. Based on the latest FIDE list, the top 10 Indian players had an average ELO rating of 2703, second only to the U.S.'s 2720 (**Table 3).**

There are now 84 Indian GMs, with three yet to be finalised by FIDE. India has the fifth highest number of GMs (**Table 4).** One of the three new Indian GMs is R. Vaishali, who is only the third Indian woman chess player after Koneru Humpy and Dronavalli Harika to become a GM. Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa are the only Indian siblings who are GMs. India is in the top 5 among countries with most GMs among women. (**Table 5**). Vaishali and Humpy have also qualified to the Women's Candidates Tournament.

'Advantage' India

The data for the tables were sourced from the FIDE website and 2700chess.com

Table 1: The table shows the chess players qualified to enter the 2024 Candidates Tournament

	Qualified to the Candidates	Federation
1	Ian Nepomniachtchi	Russia
2	Magnus Carlsen*	Norway
3	R. Praggnanandhaa	India
4	Fabiano Caruana	U.S.
5	Vidit Gujrathi	India
6	Hikaru Nakamura	U.S.
7	D. Gukesh / Arjun Erigaisi / Anish Giri	India/ Netherlands
8	Wesley So / Alireza Firouzja	U.S./ France

* Expected to withdraw. If he does, Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan will take his spot

Table 2: The table shows the top 11 Indian players in the world top 100 and their live ELO ratings

	Player	Live ELO ratings	Age
1	Viswanathan Anand	2748	54
2	R. Praggnanandhaa	2743.3	18
3	Vidit Gujrathi	2741.6	29
4	Arjun Erigaisi	2738.1	20
5	D. Gukesh	2724.6	17
6	P. Harikrishna	2704.4	37
7	S.L. Narayanan	2694.2	25
8	Nihal Sarin	2692.6	19
9	Aravindh Chithambaram	2662.3	24
10	Raunak Sadhwani	2654	18
11	Abhimanyu Puranik	2640.4	23

Table 3: The table shows the top 10 countries, the average ELO ratings of top 10 players, the number of players in top 100 list (live ELO ratings) and the number of GMs in the country

	Federation	Avg. ELO ratings of top 10 players	Players in Top 100	No. of GMs
1	U.S.	2720	11	105
2	India	2703	11	81
3	Russia	2686	12	219
4	China	2683	9	50
5	Azerbaijan	2650	5	29
6	France	2640	4	55
7	Ukraine	2640	5	87
8	Armenia	2637	4	39
9	Germany	2635	2	97
10	Spain	2632	4	59

Other countries having players in the top 100 include Uzbekistan:4, Romania:3, England:3, Poland:3, Netherlands:2, Iran:2, Hungary:2, Serbia:2, Israel: 2, Norway:1, Bulgaria:1, Vietnam:1, Turkey:1, Austria:1, Croatia:1, Czech Republic:1, Sweden:1, Egypt:1, Slovenia: 1

Table 4: The table lists the countries with most number of Grandmasters

	Federation	No. of Grandmasters
1	Russia	219
2	U.S.	105
3	Germany	97
4	Ukraine	87
5	India*	81
6	Spain	59
7	France	55
8	Serbia	53
9	Hungary	51
10	Poland	50

* Three more will be added to FIDE's latest list early next month

Table 5: The table lists the countries with most number of female Grandmasters

	Federation	No. of GMs	WGMs
1	China	8	18
2	Russia	6	41
3	Georgia	5	10
4	Ukraine	4	20
5	Hungary	3	9
6	India*	3	14

* One more (Vaishali) to be added to FIDE's latest list early next month.

Germany (21), U.S. (15), Serbia (14), Poland and Azerbaijan (10) round up the top 10 countries with the most WGMs

srinivasan.vr@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 27, 1973

Cars sold from priority quota on fake permits

New Delhi, Dec. 26: Well-known film actor Pran, a former Maharani and several leading businessmen of Delhi were among those who had bought brand new cars from the members of a gang which used fake permits to get cars released from priority Government quota.

Mr. U.N.B. Rao, Deputy Superintendent of Police, New Delhi, told newsmen to-day that police, had arrested the alleged gang leader, Ramesh Gandhi (26), and his father, Ram Prakash Gandhi, on Sunday at their flat in the posh residential area of Defence Colony.

He said police had impounded ten cars so far out of a total of 34 cases of cars obtained on fake permits. Ramesh Gandhi, police said, had given clue to 23 cars. For the rest they were hunting for two more members of the gang. A sales manager of the firm involved in the racket was absconding.

Mr. Rao said police were investigating whether all those who had bought cars had been "tricked" by the gang, but all had paid a premium – Rs. 4,000 for an Ambassador car and Rs. 8,000 for a Premier President – most of the cars had been released in the last three months.

He said the gang's clients included parents of girls who had gifted the cars to them on their wedding. The cars at present were on "honeymooning trip." Some cars had been obtained in the name of senior Government officials who are non-existent.

The father and son, arrested on charges of forgery and cheating, were dealers in second-hand cars and had an office in Connaught Place which sported a signboard "Consultant Automobile Engineers."

Mr. Rao said the gang used to give the buyer a cyclostyled copy for the "Government order" for priority allotment of cars but the other copies of the order were not available either in the Ministry of Heavy Industry, which handles such allotment, or with the dealers, all of whom are based in Delhi.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 27, 1923

No Nobel Peace Prize

A Reuter message dated Christiana, December 5, published in the "Daily Chronicle" says: The Nobel Committee of the Storting has decided that no Peace Prize shall be awarded this year.

From Page One

Anti-militancy operations in Poonch enter sixth day

Mobile Internet services remain snapped in the region. Traffic on a few routes have also been suspended to carry out the combing operation.

Additional Director-General, CRPF, Nalin Prabhat; Inspector-General, CRPF, Sandeep Khirwar; Deputy Inspector-General Poonch-Rajouri Haseeb Mughal; and Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Yasin Chaudhary also visited Dera ki Gali on Tuesday "to assess the security situation".

Meanwhile, National Conference leader Mian Altaf was not allowed to visit Surankote to meet the families of three civilians, who died after allegedly being detained by the Army.

"The administration's move to stop me was unfortunate. I have close relations in Surankote. I thought of meeting the victims' families, who fear to share things directly with the administration, but will apprise us of their situation," Mr. Altaf said.

Earlier, former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti too was not allowed to visit the area.

Rajnath to visit

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to assess the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

In response to Mr. Singh's visit, former Jammu and Kashmir Law Minister Syed Basharat Bukhari said. "You are visiting J&K to assess the situation after the Poonch encounter. I strongly trust and believe that you will not let down the family of the three individuals who lost their lives under mysterious circumstances. We hope justice will be served."

'Railways spending big on PM's selfie booths'

Northern Railway, in reply to another RTI query, has said that selfie photo booths will be installed at 100 different points across railway stations, with some stations having more than one booth. For instance, Dehradun, Ambala, New Delhi, Amritsar, Ayodhya and Chandigarh have three booths in each station.

"While the Chief Public Relations Officer of Northern Railway has said that contract work has been allotted equally among eight empanelled agencies with Northern Railway, the officials have refused to divulge the name of the agencies to which the work has been contracted out or the total expenditure," Mr. Bose told *The Hindu*.

Names hidden

He said information about the total expenditure and the names of the agencies empanelled had not been revealed by Northern, Southern or Western Railway.

In Western Railway too, only one of the five divisions – Bhavnagar – responded to the RTI query. "As of December 4, selfie points have been installed at five stations – Veraval, Bhavnagar Terminus, Botad, Dhandhuka and Gandhigram – of the Western Railway Bhavnagar division," the reply said.

Opposition leaders such as Shashi Tharoor of the Congress and Priyanka Chaturvedi of the Shiv Sena took to X to criticise the Centre's expenditure on PM's selfie booths.

'Misuse of reources'

"Not a single day goes without someone sharing their ghastly experience while travelling in trains. People are paying more for services even though services are going down the drain... spending crores over selfie points than better facilities. Shame on Central Railway," Ms. Chaturvedi said on X.

Criticising the "blatant misuse" of government funds, Mr. Tharoor posted on X: "The shameless self promotion of the PM and the ruling party at the expense of the honest taxpayer is such a blatant misuse of government resources that, in any other democracy, would be condemned and lead to a taxpayer revolt. In India, we are unfortunately inured to indulging the capricious whims and fancies of our rulers."

'Fiscal deficit may breach 5.9% of GDP target'

"Higher-than-budgeted revenue expenditure triggered through the first and likely second supplementary demand for grants in combination with lower-than-budgeted nominal GDP will push the fiscal deficit to 6% of GDP," they concluded.

A major reason for the increased expenditure would be higher expenditure by a few select Ministries and recouping of over ₹28,000 crore to the Contingency Fund of India which was drawn by 30 departments as an advance in the past, they said.

More funds sought

In the first supplementary demand for grants, the government sought more funds for priority areas like food, fertilizer, and LPG subsidy, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Under the MGNREGS, for instance, almost ₹80,000 crore had been spent by December 19, compared with the Budget Estimate of ₹60,000 crore. The government's supplementary demands included a top-up of ₹14,524 crore for the scheme.

We were beaten throughout the day, says J&K civilian

Farooq, who is recovering in a hospital, says troops also put salt, chilli powder on their wounds; local people say that two of the detained civilians can be seen in a 29-second torture video

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

There is growing evidence that civilians who were allegedly picked up for questioning by the Army in Jammu and Kashmir were tortured in custody and salt and chilli powder were put on their wounds.

Fifteen persons were allegedly detained by the Army from Rajouri and Poonch districts, including eight from Surankote, after terrorists killed four soldiers in an ambush at Dera Ki Gali in the Poonch-Rajouri Sector on December 21. Three of them were found dead the next day with multiple injuries.

Dera Ki Gali has Rajouri district on one side and Poonch district on the other.

Local people say that two of the detained civilians can be seen in a 29-second video showing the "torture" allegedly committed by the security forces.

Farooq Din, son of Gulab Din, a resident of Upper Bangai in Thanamandi, Rajouri, is among the five civilians who were "severely injured" and are admitted to a Rajouri hospital.

They were all rounded up from the Upper and Lower Bangai and Haspalote areas in Thanamandi around 9 a.m. on Friday.

Close screening: Security personnel checking a man, after the terrorist attack on an Army vehicle, in Poonch on Monday. ANI

'Battling for life'

"I am battling for my life. I am not sure if I will survive. Friday was a horrendous day of my life. We were beaten up from morning to evening with batons. Salt and chilli powder were sprinkled on us till we dropped unconscious. They also put us in water. This treatment was meted out to all those who were rounded up with me. We were four or five people," Mr. Farooq told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Farooq added that he was not able to move because of the injuries "all over his body".

In the past, Mr. Farooq's family has been victims of militancy. "We have lost several members to the bullets of militants. I lost my brother, uncle, and sister-in-law to militancy in the past. I fail to understand why we were picked up this time. Please pray I manage to survive," Mr. Farooq, who is a labourer by profession, said. He has a daughter.

The others who are being treated at the Rajouri hospital are Fazal Hussain, Zulfkar, Mehtab, and Muhammad Ashraf.

Inquiry initiated

Local people on Tuesday said those who are seen in the alleged torture video are the civilians who were rounded up from Topi Buffliaz at Surankote in Poonch on Friday.

"The civilians from Surankote have been spotted in the video and identified by their close relatives. The civilian in a red T-shirt (with chilli being sprinkled on wounds) is Irfan, son of Abdul Hamid. Shoket, who is dead, could be seen at the end of one of the video clips," Gujjar leader Talib Hussian told *The Hindu*.

The Army has initiated an inquiry into the allegations that the civilians, seen in the video, were picked up by the soldiers. The Jammu and Kashmir Police have also lodged a first information report (FIR) under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code against "unknown persons".

However, no official report has confirmed the veracity of the video so far.

Noor Ahmad, brother of deceased civilian Safeer Hussian, expressed hope that the families would get justice after the Army and the police complete their investigation. "My brother is not in any video. I am hopeful to get justice. My only appeal is that the security forces should differentiate between right and wrong and punish under the law. No law justifies what was done to my brother," Mr. Ahmad, who has been working with the Border Security Force (BSF) for 32 years, said.

Militants turn Pir Panjal Valley into new battleground

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Militants have changed tack in Jammu and Kashmir and inflicted more casualties on the Army compared with other security wings this year by turning the Pir Panjal Valley, comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts, into a new battleground.

Official figures suggest that a total of 28 soldiers had been killed in J&K this year in nine fierce encounters in the dense jungles, which security agencies see as "a stark shift from militant attacks in built-up and urban areas to jungle warfare".

Seven soldiers were killed in the Kashmir Valley – once a hotbed of militancy – in three encounters, while the rest of the six encounters took place in the Pir Panjal Valley, leaving 21 soldiers dead.

Introducing hybrid warfare techniques, these militants, who seem well versed with jungle warfare, also made videos of three major encounters using body cameras. The attackers remain untraced despite prolonged search operations.

Police officers operating in Pir Panjal said the region was an infiltration route to push arms and men into south Kashmir till 2018 but "the topography of the region, which is home to dense forests and multiple mountain ranges with natural caves", allowed militants to operate with some advantage.

Troop reduction

The thinning out of troops from the region after being declared a zero-militancy zone prior to 2018 also helped militants create new bases. Officials pointed out that the first troop reduction started after the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan in 2002. The second was after the China-India border skirmishes in 2020. However, the Army is again re-inducting troops to seal the routes on the ridges across the region, sources said.

In a sudden spurt in militancy, around 40 soldiers were killed in Pir Panjal since 2020. The steep rise was witnessed just a year after the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position in 2019.

Official sources said new means of communication, use of drones for arms supplies along the Line of Control and the high level of training to survive hostile forests are posing a new challenge to security forces. According to reports, militants were using YSMS technology, which is hard to detect, and SIM-less phone activation to flee from the encounter sites.

Returning my Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award: Vinesh Phogat

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat on Tuesday said she is returning her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award to the government protesting against the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh-loyalist Sanjay Singh as the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, the wrestler wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ms. Vinesh's decision comes days after Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and Deafylmpics champion Virender Singh Yadav returned their Padma Shri awards.

"I am returning my Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award," Ms. Vinesh announced through a letter that she posted in her X account.

Vinesh Phogat

On Thursday, Sanjay Singh was elected as the president of the WFI after the panel led by the close aide of Brij Bhushan won 13 of the 15 posts. The wrestlers had demanded that no close associate of Brij Bhushan should enter the WFI administration.

Following the election, Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik announced that she would quit the sport.

However, the Sports Ministry had later suspended the newly-elected panel for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions and also asked the IOA to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body.

In suspending the panel, the government cited its "hasty announcement" of organising the U-15 and U-20 nationals "without following due procedure".

Kashmir will become Gaza if talks not held with Pakistan: Farooq

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and senior National Conference (NC) leader and MP Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday warned of a situation akin to Gaza in Palestine if India did not have a dialogue with Pakistan over Kashmir.

"Dialogue is the only way forward to resolve lingering issues. If a conducive atmosphere for a dialogue is not worked out between India and Pakistan, the day is not far when J&K will become like Gaza, and people will suffer like in Palestine," Mr. Abdullah said in Srinagar. He said that Pakistani leader Nawaz Sharif was likely to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan in the upcoming election in that country.

"Mr. Sharif has repeatedly said he was ready to talk to India. What is the reason [that] we are not ready to talk? If we do not find a solution through dialogue, we will meet the same fate as Gaza and Palestine," the National Conference leader said.

Mr. Abdullah said "those making tall claims on the end of militancy" did not know that it would not end "till a conducive environment for talks is made".

Congress chief expresses concern over rise in J&K terror attacks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday expressed concern over the rise in terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits.

Mr. Kharge made these comments after reviewing the Congress's preparations for the Lok Sabha election in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

"Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are inalienable and indistinguishable part of India, but PM Modi's clean chit to China, post Galwan has endangered our National Security and strategic interests. We are deeply concerned about the rise in terror attacks in Pir Panjal and the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits in the last few years," the Congress president said in a post on X.

'Betraying people'

His comments come after two separate incidents of terror attacks in Poonch and Baramulla last week in which four soldiers and a retired police officer were killed. The Congress chief also accused the Modi government of leaving "no stone unturned in betraying the people of Jammu & Kashmir".

"We hope to see full Statehood restored to J&K, and Ladakh being made a State at the earliest. People of Ladakh are unitedly demanding safeguards for the tribal people. But the Modi govt. has time and again, deceived them," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Kharge claimed that the people of J&K want change and want their voices to be heard. "Congress party and allies are strongly committed to the welfare, development and empowerment of J&K and Ladakh," he added.

'Non-European client hired plane for Indians'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A "non-European" entity had facilitated the journey of 303 Indian citizens who were grounded at the Vatry airport near Paris for five days after the French authorities got an "anonymous signal", the lawyer of the Romanian Legend Airlines whose chartered aircraft was flying the passengers from Dubai to Nicaragua said on Tuesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over the phone, Liliana Bakayoko, advocate for the airlines, said that the French authorities converted the airport into a tribunal and the passengers were summoned before a judge before they were allowed to return to India.

"The French authorities got an anonymous signal and they took the signal extremely seriously as they suspected human trafficking to be involved behind the flight. All 303 passengers were Indian citizens and they had boarded the flight in the United Arab Emirates," Ms. Bakayoko said without explaining if the "anonymous signal" came from a third country or an agency that has friendly ties with France.

She said that the investigation is currently ongoing in Paris about the flight and its purpose. "At the moment, we can say that the aircraft was hired by a non-European client [of the Legend Airlines] who had also sold tickets to the Indian citizens on board for the UAE to Nicaragua flight. We are not naming the client at the moment," she said.

Return tickets

During the interrogation, French officials discovered that several passengers had booked hotel rooms in Nicaragua and a few even had confirmed tickets to return to the UAE. These discoveries further intrigued the French authorities as they tried to ascertain what the Indian passengers wanted to do in the Central American country which is known for being a gateway to North America.

Strict watch: French customs officers standing near the grounded Airbus A340 on December 21, at the Vatry airport in France. AFP

"While it is not unusual for Indians to travel internationally during the Christmas season, investigation is yet to ascertain if all of them came from India to Dubai with the intention of getting on to the same chartered flight or if some of them were already stationed in Dubai," Ms. Bakayoko said.

The aircraft, an Airbus A340, had landed at the Vatry airport for a brief stopover to refuel on December 21, when the French officials acted on the tip-off and asked the crew and the passengers to alight for further verification.

The Legend Airlines aircraft landed in Mumbai earlier on Tuesday and the passengers were allowed to leave the airport after questioning.

Ms. Bakayoko said that the non-liveried nature of the aircraft did not violate any rule as it was not representing any company but a client who had chartered the flight to ferry passengers.

She said that out of the 303 Indians onboard, 25 sought legal asylum in France and had stayed back for the moment.

"Out of the total, two passengers were taken into custody as they were found in possession of multiple passports and a substantial amount of money that they were not supposed to have. Twenty-five passengers have stayed back as they sought asylum in France and the rest 276 were allowed to return to India," said Ms. Bakayoko, who further said that neither Nicaragua nor the United Arab Emirates wanted to host the aircraft and that the Indian authorities urged the passengers to return home as they are Indian passport holders.

With the departure of 276 Indians, the focus has now shifted to the fate of the 25 Indians who sought asylum in France. The lawyer shared that they sought asylum citing various grounds that are still unclear and said that the process may take up to six months to examine each case that the 25 Indians have cited.

Confusion over implementation of newly enacted criminal laws

Despite Gazette notification, officials cite the need for clarity; they say in absence of required infrastructure on the ground and adequate training for police, it may take several months for the new legislation to replace British-era laws to be effective

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A day after the three new criminal laws received Presidential assent and were notified in the Gazette, confusion prevailed at police stations and courts on Tuesday regarding their implementation, said several police officials.

The three Acts replace the British-era laws, but in the absence of the required infrastructure on the ground and adequate training of police officials, it will take several months for them to be effective.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Chandigarh on December 22 that the framework to implement the laws in all the Union Territories would be ready by December 2024.

"By December 2024, the work of infrastructure, software, training of human resources and complete computerisation of courts will be done for implementation of these three laws in all the Union Territories," Mr. Shah said. He added that a meeting in all the Union Territories would be held before January 31 to fully prepare them to implement the laws by December 22, 2024.

Seeking clarity: Minister Amit Shah has said that a framework to implement the laws will be ready by December 2024. PTI

'Not on different dates'

A senior government official said the laws would have to be simultaneously implemented in the States and the Union Territories and there could not be different dates. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

The December 25 notification said the laws "shall come into force on such date as the Central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint". "Several magistrates asked on Tuesday why the police are still registering cases under the IPC when the new laws are in place. Till now, no training of officials has been held nor there is a change in the software used to register the cases," a Delhi Police official said.

Common software

At present, over 95% police stations across the country register first information reports (FIR) through a common application software under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a project started in 2009.

Out of 17,379 sanctioned police stations, as many as 16,733 police stations are linked to the CCTNS, which is under the ambit of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

"The format for FIRs, Integrated Investigation Form (IIF) among others will have to be changed under CCTNS. That has not been done so far. In some States, the FIR is registered in local language, that link will have to be established since the names of the Acts are in Hindi," said another official.

The official added that there is confusion regarding supplementary chargesheets too.

"What will be the fate of supplementary chargesheets for cases filed under the IPC after the Sanhita is implemented. All this requires further clarity," the official said.

M.S Khan, a lawyer specialising in terror cases, said police officials would have to be properly trained.

"Though there are no substantial changes in the three legislation, some offences might be overlooked due to lack of application of provisions by investigating agencies. It will take three-four years to train the police officials as BNSS requires timebound investigation and mandatory audio visual recording [of search and seizure etc]," Mr. Khan said.

Yechury not to attend inauguration of Ram Temple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sitaram Yechury

Declining the invitation to attend the inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Tuesday slammed the ruling BJP for converting a religious ceremony into a "state-sponsored event for political gain".

The Ram Temple will be inaugurated on January 22 at Ayodhya.

Nirpendra Mishra, Chairman of Ayodhya Ram Mandir Construction Committee along with a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) functionary had met Mr. Yechury to extend a formal invitation for the event.

Arguing that religion was an individual choice and that the CPI(M) respected and safeguarded every individual's right to choose their particular form of faith, Mr. Yechury said that the January 22 event was dissonant with the Indian Constitutional order. "The Indian Constitution and the Supreme Court have very clearly said that the state shall not profess any religious affiliations.This inauguration ceremony is being converted into a state-sponsored event with the presence of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It is a straightforward politicisation of the religious belief of people, which we don't think is in consonance with the Constitutional order that we have," he said.

Reacting to the news reports of Mr. Yechury's decision to not attend the inauguration ceremony, Union Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi said, "The invitations have been sent to all. Those called by Lord Ram will only reach (Ayodhya, for the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at Ram Temple)."

PM discusses maritime security with Saudi Prince

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of an increased security threat to shipping vessels in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a telephone conversation with the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"Held a good conversation with Brother HRH Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the future of Strategic Partnership between India and Saudi Arabia. We exchanged views on the West Asian situation and shared concerns regarding terrorism, violence and the loss of civilian lives. Agreed to work together for peace, security and stability in the region," Mr. Modi said.

The discussion is part of the Indian leadership's engagement with regional stakeholders in the backdrop of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. "The two leaders emphasised the need for maintaining the maritime security and the freedom of navigation," a press release by the government said.

'Blast-like' sound heard near Israel Embassy in Delhi; no explosive found

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A loud sound, similar to an explosion, was heard behind the Israeli Embassy on Thursday evening, but no traces of explosives were recovered from the spot, the police said on Tuesday.

The police said they received a call at the control room at 5.53 p.m. regarding a loud sound behind the Embassy of Israel and Jindal House.

"Considering the sensitivity of the location, and mention of explosion-type sound, senior officers rushed to the location," Deputy Commissioner of Police (PRO) Kumar Gyanesh said. Soon, a dog squad, crime team, and bomb disposal squad of the Delhi Police reached the spot. Experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory arrived. The area was cordoned off and searched, he said.

Ground zero: Delhi Police officials near the Embassy of Israel in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'All diplomats safe'

Deputy Chief of Mission Ohad Nakash Kaynar said: "This evening several minutes after 5, an explosion occurred in close proximity of the Embassy. All our diplomats and workers are safe. Our security teams are working in full cooperation with local Delhi security and they will investigate the matter further."

Police sources said a typed letter addressed to the Israeli Ambassador and a flag were found in the garden area behind the embassy. The authenticity of the letter is being verified, they said. "Currently, we are analysing the dump data of the said spot to identify phone numbers active in the area," an officer said.

A guard deployed at Hindi Bhavan told presspersons that he called the police after he heard a "loud noise". Police and fire department officials are at the spot and a search operation is under way.

The police said: "The experts have lifted the exhibits that may have evidentiary relevance, and the same are being sent for forensic examination."

India, Russia ink 'key' pacts related to Kudankulam nuclear power plant

Press trust of India
MOSCOW

In a major boost to their time-tested partnership, India and Russia on Tuesday signed some "very important" agreements related to the construction of the future power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is on a five-day visit to Russia, made the announcement after his "comprehensive and productive" meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov on the bilateral economic cooperation during which they witnessed signing of agreements on nuclear power and in areas of medicines, pharmaceutical substances and medical devices.

Boosting ties: Union Minister S. Jaishankar with Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov at the meeting. X/@DRSJAISHANKAR

"Today, in my presence and that of Deputy Prime Minister Manturov, we signed some very important agreements pertaining to the future units of the Kudankulam nuclear project," he said addressing the Indian diaspora here.

The Kudankulam nuclear power plant, India's largest, is being built in Tamil Nadu with the technical assistance of Russia. The construction began in March 2002. Since February 2016, the first power unit of the Kudankulam NPP has been steadily operating at its design capacity of 1,000 MW. The plant is expected to start operating at full capacity in 2027, according to Russian state media.

Mr. Jaishankar noted the significant progress in trade, finance, connectivity, energy, civil aviation and nuclear domains. "Appreciated the greater focus on exploring new opportunities. Discussed making our cooperation more balanced and sustainable in different dimensions," he said in a post on X.

He described Russia as a "special partner" in a few areas such as defence, nuclear power and space. "Collaborations are done in areas of defence, space and nuclear [energy] with countries with which you have a high degree of trust," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-B

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-18(B)/23-24 Dt:26.12.2023

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender–18/23-24 dt 03.11.23 **"Providing RCC Substructure & steel column works @ Admin bldg, Keepakam" (T/C-23-072, Est. cost ₹12.91 Lakhs); Sale period extended up to 05.01.2024.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST)-2024

for admission to PhD and Integrated PhD programmes in Physics and Theoretical Computer Science will be held on 3rd March 2024.

Visit www.jest.org.in for further details and the application process.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, No.340/A, 5th Main, RHCS Layout, Annapoorneshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560091.

No:SADH/RRNZ/TENDER/PR/359/2023-24 Date: 22-12-2023

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER

Sub: Regarding the amendment of the dates published in the Tender Notification.

Ref.: Tender Notification No: SADH/RRN/TENDER/01/2023-24, Dated: 08-12-2023.

With reference to the above subject, the dates for the works for which the tender has been published as per reference have been amended due to technical reasons as follows. Other things remain unchanged.

Revised Schedule: 1) Last Date for Submission of Bid for Maintenance of Works Tenders in online Portal on **06-01-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **08-01-2024 at 11.30 AM. 3)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, BBMP.

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

Name of the Department: **Town Planning & Development Department.** Pre-tender meeting invited by **Director General, (TP&DD)/(TNP), S. S. Hogg Market, Top Floor, West Block, Ph-II, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata - 700 087.** Name of the Work & Location: **Construction of Road along the bank of Tolly's Nullah from Usha Bridge to Masterda Surya Sen Metro Station by concrete Paver Block including allied beautification work in connection with Pollution Abatement of Tolly's Nullah in Ward No. 98, Br.-X under KMC.** Estimated Amount: **Rs. 1,10,60,081.00.** Date, time and location of pre-tender meeting: **28.12.2023 at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Town Planning and Development Department, S. S. Hogg Market, Top Floor, West Block, Ph-II, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata - 700 087.** Pre-tender meeting VC link: **Meet with TPDD, KMC 12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Time zone: Asia/Kolkata, Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/rvu-pxaa-tpx**

1168/23-24

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400 088.
Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in E-mail: administration@iipsindia.ac.in

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR & SENIOR PROFESSOR

Advt. no. IIPS/RECT.DIR & SR. PROF./04/2023

The International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, invites applications for the post of Director & Senior Professor in the prescribed format along with attested copies of testimonials/certificates etc. to be addressed to Mr. Amrit Lal Jangid, Joint Director (Statistics), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Room No.317, 3rd floor, IRCS Building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi – 110001.

For details please visit Institute's website at www.iipsindia.ac.in. The last date for the receipt of the application in the prescribed format will be four weeks from the date of publishing the advertisement i.e. 5th February, 2024 (closing date).

Applications received thereafter will not be considered.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 37/2023-24 Memo No -2929 Dt.20.12.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for temple works as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work : **Temple Work**
2. No of Work : **2 Nos**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)**
4. Class of Contractor : **B & A Class**
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From **10.00 AM of Dt.27.12.2023** up to **05.00 PM of Dt.03.01.2024 up to 5.00 PM**
6. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.04.01.2024 at 11.30 AM**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha

B-1496 : OIPR-34127/11/0046/2324

डीआईपीआर नं. 15761 दिनांक 07.12.2023

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर

क्रमांक- 3625 दिनांक- 07.12.2023

निविदा संशोधन सूचना 43/2023-24

NIB Code No. PWD2324A3897

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 43/2023-24 में अंकित कार्य की अनुमानित राशि में निम्नानुसार संशोधित किया जाता है। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। कार्य के यूबीएन निम्नानुसार है।

अनुमानित लागत (लाखों में)

क्र. सं.	जिला	पैकेज का नाम/ नम्बर	पूर्व में प्रकाशित अनुमानित राशि: अनुमानित लागत निर्माण कार्य (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित (भाग अ)	पूर्व में प्रकाशित अनुमानित राशि: अनुमानित लागत पांच वर्षों के रख रखाव (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित (भाग ब)	पूर्व में प्रकाशित अनुमानित राशि: कुल अनुमानित लागत (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित	संशोधित अनुमानित राशि: अनुमानित लागत निर्माण कार्य (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित (भाग अ)	संशोधित अनुमानित राशि: अनुमानित लागत पांच वर्षों के रख रखाव (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित (भाग ब)	संशोधित अनुमानित राशि: कुल अनुमानित लागत (लाखों में) जीएसटी सहित
1	जालोर	RJ18P306 UBN-PWD2324 WSOB16884	423.84	23.40	447.24	423.84	23.31	447.15

(देवी लाल आर्य)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर

DIPR/C/15842/2023

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370,
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Corrigendum Notification No. 10-01/2023-24
Dated- 26.12.2023

With reference to this office Tender Notification **No.: 10/2023-24** Dated: **16.12.2023** Corrigendum is issued with the Calendar of events as mentioned below :

1.Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **18.12.2023** onwards.

2.Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00** hours on dated **29.12.2023**

3.The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **30.12.2023** at **16.30** hours or further date and time to be intimated.

Note: All other conditions of tender notification remain unaltered. For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/2712/Zen/2023-24

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Court extends ED custody of three Vivo-India executives

A Delhi court on Tuesday extended by two days the Enforcement Directorate's custody of the three Vivo-India executives in a money laundering case against the Chinese smartphone maker and others. Additional Sessions Judge Aparna Swami extended the custody of Interim CEO of Vivo-India Hong Xuquan alias Terry, Chief Financial Officer Harinder Dahiya, and consultant Hemant Munjal till December 28 on an application moved by the ED. The accused were produced before the court on the expiry of their three-day ED custody granted earlier. PTI

Modi hits 2 crore subscribers on his YouTube channel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube channel hit two crore subscribers on Tuesday, according to a real-time tracker from the social media analytics platform Socialblade. Mr. Modi's account began picking up dramatically more followers in the last two years. In August this year, however, the channel achieved five times that many subscribers. The following month, he made a virtual appearance at the streaming site's YouTube Fanfest India event and said, "[Please subscribe to my channel, and to receive updates, do press the bell icon]". Mr. Modi now has more subscribers than any world leader. That statistic likely derives from the unique circumstances of the country's polity: India has rapidly digitised in the last few years.

India is now playing a key role in solving global problems, says Modi

'This is India's time, the next 25 years will showcase India's capabilities,' says PM; the world took notice of India's heritage the time 'we started giving our heritage its due respect', he says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India was shedding its mentality of slavery and was playing a key role in tackling global problems of economy, science, research, sports, and diplomacy.

Addressing the "Veer Baal Divas" celebrations here, marking the martyrdom of the sons of the last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, Mr. Modi said the world kept India among the foremost lands of opportunities.

India, the Prime Minister said, is playing a key role in solving global problems of economy, science, research, sports and diplomacy. "This is India's time, the next 25 years will showcase India's capabilities."

"The coming 25 years are bringing huge opportunities for our youth. The youth of India, irrespective of which region or society they are born in, have limitless dreams. To fulfil these dreams, the government has a clear road map and a clear vision."

Big win: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Union Ministers, attends the 'Veer Baal Divas' celebration programme. ANI

Global celebrations

Terming "Veer Baal Divas" a celebration of the heritage of the Sikh Gurus, the Prime Minister said the courage and ideals of Guru Gobind Singh and his four '*Sahibzades*' (sons) embolden every Indian even today.

He expressed happiness that the event is now being celebrated internationally in the U.S., the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, the UAE, and Greece.

Mr. Modi said that the world had taken notice of India's heritage the time "we started giving our heritage its due respect".

"Today, when we are taking pride in our heritage, the world's viewpoint has also changed", he added.

On India becoming the third largest economy, the Prime Minister said this would benefit the youth the most and meant better health, education, opportunities, jobs, quality of life and quality of products. He told the young audience about the nationwide campaign of linking youth with the dreams and resolution of '*Viksit* Bharat' (developed India).

PM advises youth

The Prime Minister advised the youth to give top priority to their health as it is crucial to achieving the desired results in life. He suggested making some rules for themselves and firmly adhering to them such as physical exercise, digital detox, mental fitness, adequate sleep, and including millets in diet.

He also touched upon the menace of drugs in society, and stressed that it could be tackled by coming together as a nation and society.

Mr. Modi flagged off a march-past by youth in Delhi.

Ministry sends social media firms advisory to regulate deepfakes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The advisory is aimed at getting social media firms to crack down more forcefully on fabricated 'deepfake' clips of people

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said on Tuesday that it had sent another advisory to social media firms to comply with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The advisory is aimed at getting social media firms to crack down more forcefully on fabricated 'deepfake' clips of people made with artificial intelligence. A similar advisory was first sent to social media platforms early in November.

'Communicate to users'

"The advisory mandates that intermediaries communicate prohibited content, particularly those specified under Rule 3(1)(b) of the IT Rules, clearly and precisely to users," the IT Ministry said in a press release.

The advisory caps a month of discussions with social media platforms, during which Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made a remark on deepfakes during a Deepavali interaction with supporters.

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in November that rules would soon be formulated to regulate deepfakes. However, no draft has emerged.

The government said instead that further IT Rules amendments would follow "if and when required". The IT Ministry did not share a full copy of the advisory sent to the social media platforms.

"Content not permitted under the IT Rules, in particular those listed under Rule 3(1)(b) must be clearly communicated to the users in clear and precise language including through its terms of service and user agreements," the Ministry wrote in the advisory, according to an excerpt shared by the government.

Four arrested

The government's action on deepfakes follow a viral fabricated clip of actor Rashmika Mandanna, who publicly called out the video.

The Delhi Police arrested four individuals.

One off-key conduct by in-laws cannot be classified as cruelty for dowry, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that one discordant instance of bad behaviour could not be classified as harassment or cruelty for dowry under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code.

"The instance, unless portentous, in the absence of any material evidence of interference and involvement in the marital life of the complainant, may not be sufficient to implicate the person as having committed cruelty under Section 498A of the IPC," a Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna clarified in a recent order.

The court was hearing the appeal of a woman from Karnataka, who was accused by her newly wed sister-in-law of using foul language and dumping the latter's personal belongings in the dustbin.

The court was hearing an appeal of a woman who was accused by her sister-in-law.

Section 498A mandates that "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine".

However, the Bench found that the accused woman was not even living in the same house as her sister-in-law. In fact, the woman was based abroad.

The court found that the brother's wife had not given any specific details of the cruelty committed on her by the woman.

Vague, general

The Bench said that the woman's brother had already divorced his wife in 2022. The allegations of her sister-in-law against her were "very vague and general".

"Accordingly, we quash the criminal proceedings against the appellants. However, we clarify that if any material comes on record during the recording of evidence, it will be open to the trial court to proceed according to the law," the court ordered.

ICMR initiates steps for non-invasive testing method to tackle anaemia

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

While accepting that anaemia continues to be a major public health problem in India despite the comprehensive Anaemia-*mukt* Bharat (AMB) programme, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Delhi, has now invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from the eligible organisations, companies and start-ups manufacturing non-invasive haemoglobinometer useful in effective screening of anaemia.

Acceptable to all

While companies are to respond by January 5, the ICMR noted that testing and treatment of anaemia, using digital methods and point-of-care treatment, with a special focus on pregnant women and on school-going adolescents, is one of the key AMB strategic interventions.

New strategies: Students being screened for iron-deficiency anaemia as it continues to be a major health concern. FILE PHOTO

"The test and treat strategy, for its effective implementation, requires a simple, easy-to-use non-invasive haemoglobinometer which will be acceptable to all, especially young children. Over the past few years, several 'Make in India' non-invasive haemoglobinometer devices have become available. However, these devices need to be validated to establish the accuracy, bias, and precision of the non-invasive point-of-care methods before their use can be recommended in the programme," it explained.

In India, the prevalence of anaemia among six groups as per the National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21) is 25% in men (15-49 age group), 57% in women (15-49), 31.1% in adolescent boys (15-19), 59.1 % in adolescent girls, 52.2 % in pregnant women (15-49) and 67.1% in children (6-59).

"Research on interventions for mitigation/detection of anaemia is, therefore, ICMR's health research priority. Considering its national importance, ICMR intends to carry out a validation study of such non-invasive haemoglobinometer devices followed by health technology assessment for evaluating its suitability for the AMB programme," the ICMR organisation said in its EoI.

Explaining its role in the programme, the ICMR said that it would conduct a hospital based clinical study to validate the promising non-invasive hemoglobinometers devices against the gold standard method of haemoglobin measurement.

ED files prosecution complaint against two

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against an UAE-based Indian, Cheruvathur Chakutty Thampi, and U.K. national Sumit Chadha.

The ED, through a release on Tuesday, alleged that Mr. Thampi was a close associate of Robert Vadra. They had bought land in Haryana and had financial transactions with each other, it alleged.

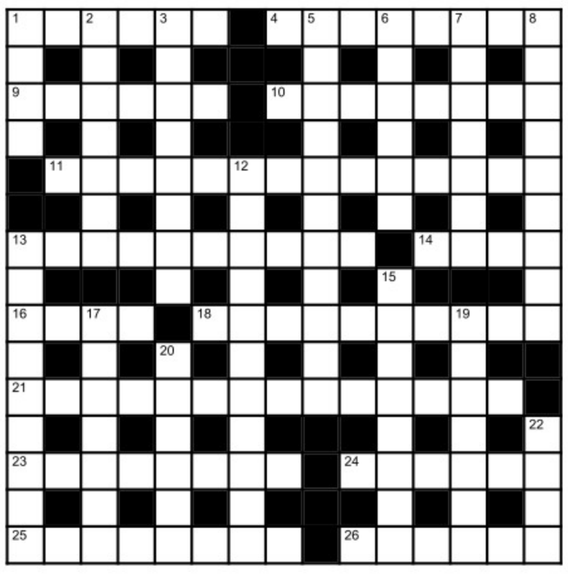
The agency has invoked money-laundering charges against Mr. Thampi and Mr. Chadha. A special Delhi court took cognisance of the prosecution complaint on December 22. The case pertains to the ED probe into the activities and various contacts of arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

TH CROSSWORD + 14056

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Save clipping right away (6)
4 In my opinion, a sibling relationship hinges around love, ultimately (2,1,3,2)
9 Felt negative about securing tender (6)
10 Burned out, overwhelmed by study class (8)
11 Perhaps rebellious groups - artists taking on the Establishment? (3-11)
13 Printing technique using creels treated with inks (10)
14 Set of three display cycles (4)
16 Impress and others start to honour (4)
18 Method adopted by partner crossing hill before finish of car race (5,5)
21 Lowly deal for me, broadcasting this game (6-2-6)
23 Local face of Opposition heralding change in Washington is above suspicion (8)
24 Fish-like salamander's head dropped in the manner of a woodpecker (6)
25 Large grenade, when activated blew up (8)
26 Set my clue for "College or gymnasium" (6)

Down

1 Emotionally intense, nerdy guys regularly let out (4)
2 Smart, captivating, Telugu acting legend's command (7)
3 Heartless rival deviously putting on act set one against the other (8)
5 A tradition to take time off from walk for some meat pastry (7,4)
6 Films kitty breaking vessel (6)
7 Bouncer! English win scoring boundary at the end (7)
8 Spooner saying "Pen British politician's unbelievable account" (4,5)
12 Maestro earns name after a class act (11)
13 Fish felled with tail cut off! How long will it survive? (5,4)
15 Polish Solidarity gheraos illegal bar (8)
17 Officer: "Hell hath no bounds" (7)
19 Occupants of fleet identify current with tailwinds (3,4)
20 Football side's first review held up (6)
22 Durable design for locks? (4)

SUDOKU

		1	6				2	
4							7	6
	2				3	1	9	
		4		6	1		3	
	8		7	5		2		
	6	9	3				4	
1	4							2
	7				4	3		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6020 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	L	I	B	I	D	O		C	R	U	M	B	S	
	I		R		I			A		O		T		
U	N	S	O	U	N	D		G	I	Z	Z	A	R	D
	U		W		N		H		S		I		I	
E	X	A	S	P	E	R	A	T	E		L	I	N	K
			E		R		M				L		G	
	V	I	R	U	S		S	I	T	U	A	T	E	D
	I				E		T		H				N	
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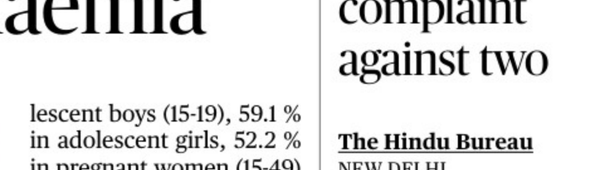
	E		A				U		R		A			
P	O	S	T		C	O	N	S	E	C	R	A	T	E
	B		E		A		G		U		N		R	
O	L	D	N	I	C	K		E	N	V	E	N	O	M
	O		C		H				T		S		L	
	G	E	Y	S	E	R		P	O	R	T	A	L	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	4	5	3	6	7	2	1
7	3	1	9	2	8	4	6	5
6	5	2	4	7	1	3	9	8
2	1	9	7	8	4	5	3	6
4	7	6	3	1	5	9	8	2
5	8	3	2	6	9	1	4	7
3	4	7	8	5	2	6	1	9
1	2	5	6	9	3	8	7	4
9	6	8	1	4	7	2	5	3



FAITH

Greatness of Andal

Goddess Bhumadevi once asked Lord Vishnu in Sri Vaikunta which service He liked the most. God replied that He relished the service of people making and offering garlands to Him. Sri Dushyanth Sridhar said in a discourse that the Goddess took the avatar of Sri Andal to fulfil His cherished desire. Also called Godha, she was brought up by Vishnuchithar (Periazhwar) in an atmosphere of love and affection, who used to make garlands and offer the same to Lord Vatapatrasayee at Srivilliputhur daily.

Sri Andal practised devotion from a young age and composed "Thiruppavai" and "Nachiar Thirumozhi". Her life has been stitched into a perfect spiritual system. She showed us how to realise God through the spiritual act of stringing garlands and singing His paeans. The term Andal refers to one who rules over. She had reigned over the people through her devotion, knowledge and clarity in words. In the fourth poem of Thiruppavai (*Aazhi mazhai),* she uses the unique Tamil letter "*Zha*" 11 times, which shows her mastery of the language. It is said the navagrahas act as guards to Lord Rama, Ranganatha and Srinivasa. Andal has mentioned in Thiruppavai about navagrahas – Sun and Moon (1st and 22nd poem), Mars (20th), Venus and Jupiter (13th), Saturn (20th), and Mercury (17th).

INBRIEF

LIC secures board nod to set up a branch in GIFT City

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) board has approved the insurance major's proposal for establishing a branch in International Financial Services Centre, GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. "We wish to inform you that the board of directors of the Corporation, on December 26, approved the proposal to setup a branch office at International Financial Services Centre," the LIC said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday.

TVS Motor Company receives ₹310 cr. from subsidiary SACL

TVS Motor Company has received ₹310 crore from Sundaram Auto Components Ltd. (SACL), a wholly owned subsidiary, for extinguishment of 3.26 crore equity shares held by it. On December 20, the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai, had approved SACL's application for reduction of share capital, TVS Motor said in a filing. Consequently, SACL's share capital stands reduced to ₹11.94 crore from ₹44.56 crore. SACL paid ₹95 per share to the holding company.

Muthoot Microfin gets listed at 4.24% discount on BSE

Muthoot Microfin Ltd., part of the Muthoot Pappachan Group, on Tuesday debuted on the stock exchanges at a discount. On the BSE, the stock got listed at ₹278 a share, a discount of 4.67% to the issue price of ₹291.The share slid further to close at ₹266.20, down 4.24% from the listing price and 8.52% from the issue price. With this, the market capitalisation of the company was estimated at ₹4,538.50 crore.

Narrowing trade deficit cut India's CAD to 1% of GDP in Q2

Services exports grew by 4.2% on a y-o-y basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services; net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a y-o-y basis, according to the latest data published by RBI

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) declined to $8.3 billion, which is 1% of the country's GDP in the second quarter of FY24 (July 2023 -September 2023) owing to a "narrowing of merchandise trade deficit" according to the RBI's latest data.

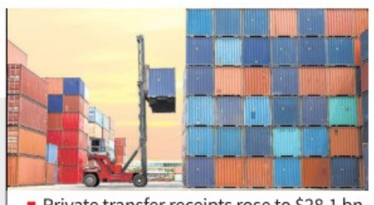
Q2 deficit is lower than $9.2 billion (1.1% of GDP) in Q1 (April 2023 - June 2023) and $30.9 billion (3.8% of GDP) a year earlier.

"Underlying the lower CAD on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis in Q2 FY24 was the narrowing of merchandise trade deficit to $61 billion from $78.3 billion in Q2 FY23," the RBI said

Cautious optimism

Growth in services exports, lower merchandise trade deficit contributed to the sharp slide in Current Account Deficit

- Trade gap narrowed to $61 bn in Q2 FY24 from $78.3 bn in Q2FY23
- Net outgo on primary income account rose to $12.2 bn from $11.8 bn a year earlier



- Private transfer receipts rose to $28.1 bn, an increase of 2.6% year-on-year

As per data, services exports grew by 4.2% on a y-o-y basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services. Net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a y-o-y basis.

Net outgo on the primary income account, mainly reflecting payments of investment income, increased to $12.2 billion up from $11.8 billion a year earlier.

Remittances rise

Private transfer receipts, mainly remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to $28.1 billion, an increase of 2.6% from their levels during the corresponding period a year ago. In the financial account, net foreign direct investment witnessed an outflow of $0.3 billion as against $6.2 billion in Q2 FY23. Foreign portfolio investment recorded net inflow of $4.9 billion, lower than $6.5 billion during Q2 FY23.

External commercial borrowings to India recorded net outflow of $1.8 billion in Q2 FY24 as compared with net outflow of $0.5 billion in Q2 FY23.

Non-resident deposits recorded net inflow of $3.2 billion as compared with $2.5 billion in Q2 FY23, the RBI said.

'Government working on PLI 2.0 for steel sector in '24'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government is working on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme 2.0 and to ensure adequate raw material supply for the steel sector in 2024, according to Minister of State for Steel, Faggan Singh Kulaste.

"We are preparing for PLI 2.0 for the steel sector. It is under discussion at various levels," Kulaste said while talking about the government's priorities for

the sector. This includes the promotion of using scrap, the minister said.

While robust economic growth will increase steel demand, industry players are concerned about rising imports and high raw material prices amid geopolitical uncertainties.

Production and consumption of steel have shown a strong recovery after the coronavirus pandemic impacted the sector in 2020-21.

During April-November 2023, the cumulative production of crude steel was 94.01 Million Tonnes (MT), up 14.5% y-o-y. The consumption of finished steel jumped 14% to 86.97 MT on an annual basis during the same period, data from the steel ministry shows.

PLI attracted over ₹95,000 cr. till Sept.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for 14 sectors have attracted more than ₹95,000 crore in investment till September this year, an official statement said on Tuesday.

According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, as many as 746 applications have been approved till November 2023 under these schemes.

In the Union Budget 2021-22, the government announced an outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore for the schemes.

Boost for exports

The sectors included electronics, telecommunication, pharma, white goods (AC and LED light components), and textiles. The aim is to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and exports.

The Ministry said that incentives worth about ₹2,900 crore have been disbursed in 2022-23.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	71,337	0.32
US Dollar	83.19	-0.04
Gold	63,750	0.63
Brent oil	81.27	-----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2865.45	57.10
Adani Ports	1028.75	1.25
Apollo Hosp	5633.15	91.75
Asian Paints	3383.35	42.05
Axis Bank	1094.25	5.95
Bajaj Auto	6464.55	92.45
Bajaj Finserv	1645.30	-26.75
Bajaj Finance	7162.30	-133.00
Bharti Airtel	999.85	10.30
BPCL	451.60	4.95
Britannia Ind	5235.95	74.85
Cipla	1244.95	9.35
Coal India	366.05	2.80
Divis Lab	3863.50	168.55
Dr Reddys Lab	5632.15	4.45
Eicher Motors	4040.40	34.35
Grasim Ind	2069.55	23.35
HCL Tech	1458.15	-4.55
HDFC Bank	1682.45	11.60
HDFC Life	638.00	-1.85
Hero MotoCorp	4067.45	131.75
Hindalco	579.85	9.40
Hind Unilever	2584.75	9.15
ICICI Bank	995.10	0.80
IndusInd Bank	1570.80	8.45
Infosys	1543.95	-18.95
ITC	456.45	1.25
JSW Steel	852.30	-3.00
Kotak Bank	1886.85	26.35
L&T	3490.05	12.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6259.70	30.60
M&M	1662.25	28.00
Maruti Suzuki	10270.65	53.50
NestleIndia	25562.05	193.60
NTPC	309.60	6.80
ONGC	207.35	3.40
PowerGrid Corp	233.35	1.60
Reliance Ind	2578.05	13.00
SBI Life	1395.30	1.00
State Bank	638.05	1.30
Sun Pharma	1247.50	3.85
TataConsumerProduct	1007.35	14.55
Tata Motors	719.55	-5.15
Tata Steel	135.20	1.65
TCS	3795.55	-28.45
Tech Mahindra	1282.00	6.85
Titan	3656.70	29.35
UltraTech Cement	10018.65	49.65
UPL	586.10	4.45
Wipro	470.10	7.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.99	83.31
Euro	91.44	91.79
British Pound	105.36	105.78
Japanese Yen (100)	58.28	58.51
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.66
Swiss Franc	96.80	97.18
Singapore Dollar	62.69	62.94
Canadian Dollar	62.64	62.88
Malaysian Ringitt	17.91	18.00
Australian Dollar	56.46	56.69

Source:Indian Bank

Adani family set to invest ₹9,350 cr. in Adani Green

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), a renewable energy developer, on Tuesday said the board of directors had approved a preferential issuance of warrants to the promoters of the compahy for ₹9,350 crore at a price of ₹1,480.75/warrant.

With this the Adani family's holding in AGEL will increase by 1.67%. Currently they hold 56.3%. The funds will be utilised for deleveraging and accelerating capital expenditure.

"AGEL is now fully equipped to achieve its target of 45 GW by 2030 with 20.6 GW locked in capacity and secured land of over 2,00,000 acres in resource-rich areas of India," AGEL said in a statement.

Israel grants Intel $3.2 billion for new $25 billion chip plant

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Israel's government agreed to give Intel Corp. a $3.2 billion grant for a new $25 billion chip plant it plans to build in southern Israel, both sides said on Tuesday, in what is the largest investment ever by a company in Israel.

The news comes as Israel remains locked in a war with Palestinian militant group Hamas in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. This is a big show of support by a major U.S. company and a generous offer by Israel's government at a time when Washington has increased pressure on Israel to take further steps to minimise civilian harm in Gaza.

Intel's shares rose 1.9%

to $48.90 in pre-market Nasdaq trading.

The expansion plan for its Kiryat Gat site that is 42 km (26 miles) from Hamas-controlled Gaza is an 'important part of Intel's efforts to foster a more resilient global supply chain, alongside the company's ongoing and planned manufacturing investments in Europe and the United States,' Intel said in a statement.

Tamilnadu Coke IPO to fund low ash coke output

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamilnadu Coke & Power Ltd., (TNCPL) has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus with the NSE Emerge to part finance its expansion plans.

The offering comprises a fresh issuance of 64.14 lakh equity shares with a face value of ₹10 each.

The proceeds from the issue will be used to establish a new ferrosilicon manufacturing unit, set up a new solar power plant, acquire additional land and for general corporate purposes, said the leading manufacturer of Low Ash Metallurgical (LAM) coke, in a statement.

TNCPL is promoted by Tamilnadu Global Trading LLP and Ayaan Ahuja.

Renewable energy investments to surge 83% to $16.5 billion in 2024

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will witness more than 83% increase in investments in renewable energy (RE) projects to about $16.5 billion in 2024 as the country focuses on energy transition to reduce carbon emissions, Power Ministry estimates show.

This is in line with India's ambitious target of having 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and its resolve to reduce overall power generation capacity from fossil fuels to less than 50%. India has committed a net zero emission target by 2070.

Green power: India has set an ambitious target of having 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. REUTERS

However, Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh had said on many occasions that as much as 65% power generation capacity would be from non-fossil fuels by 2030 and that it would be higher than the set target of 50%.

In an interview, Mr. Singh said, "India is likely to witness 25 GW of renewable energy capacity addition entailing an investment of ₹1,37,500 crore (about $16.5 billion) in 2024 calendar year, which would be higher than 13.5 GW with an investment of ₹74,250 crore (nearly $9 billion) seen in 2023."

Apart from solar and wind energy, India has increased its focus on green hydrogen in a big way to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, mainly diesel, which is required for long haul vehicles. India is a diesel-based economy - most commercial, passenger vehicles and freight services use diesel as their main fuel.

In January this year, the Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 238(B), 288(A), 289(A), 291(A), 293(A) /2023-24/KWA/ PHC/TVLA **(1)**JJM- WSS to Seethathode - Laying DI pumping main from Sump at Plappally to G.L.S.R at Lahai, DI Gravity line to Thulappally, supply and erection of CW Pump Sets, Construction of 3.50 LL BP Tank b **(2)**JJM - WSS to Ranni-Angadi & Kottanad: Construction of 9M dia: Intake well cum pump House, Transformer Building, 400mm DI K9 RWPM, Supply, erection of transformer and Pumpsets **(3)**JJM-: WSS to Mylapra - Construction of 6LL OHSR,7LL GLSR, pump house, Supply and Laying of Pumping Main, Supply and Erection of Pumpsets **(4)**JJM -WSS to Enadimangalam - Construction of Intake well cum pump house, Supplying and installation of pumpsets and Supplying and laying RWPM Construction of 7LL OHSR **(5)**JJM: CWSS to Chenneerkkara & Omalloor Pts.- Supplying and laying 450mm DI K9 Raw water pumping main from Well cum pump house to WTP, supply & erection of 630 KVA transformer, VT pump sets and road restoration. **EMD :** Rs. 500000 each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518 each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 10-01-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04692600162, **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

KWA-JB-GL-6-1892-2023-24

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
PSPCL Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in | Contact Number:- 9646123323

Tender Inquiry No. PPR- 30/2023 **Dated: 22.12.2023**

Chief Engineer / PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three-part bid system for PSPCL invites tenders for obtaining Client membership of all the Power Exchanges (i.e. 'Indian Energy Exchange/Power Exchange of India Ltd. / Hindustan Power Exchange') from traders having valid Inter-State Trading License issued by CERC and Membership of all the Power Exchanges to enable PSPCL for purchase/sale of power through exchanges for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22.12.2023 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-935/23 76155/12/2544/2023/30962

Government of Kerala

Published Tenders from 21-12-2023 to 24-12-2023

Department of Agriculture

Tender ID: 2023_AGRI_634291_1 * Director of Agriculture Development and Farmers * Supply, installation, trial run and commissioning of Submers * Closing Date: 25-Jan-2024 * PAC: Rs35000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.

Ro.No:21-24/Dec/2023/PRD/(N)12

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate composite tenders for the following work NIT No.24/EE-TVM/23-24. Name of work Consruction of Post office building at Kumbla under Kasaragod Division, Kerala Circle. Estimated Cost: Rs. 14093651/- (Rs. 13384585/- (Civil Portion) & Rs. 709066/- (Electrical Portion)/- Earnest Money: Rs. 281873/- Period of completion: Ten months. Last date and time of submission of bid: 06.01.2024 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocure.gov.in

AGRICULTURE INSURANCE COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED
Plate B & C, 5th Floor, Block 1, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023
CIN : U74999DL2002PLC118123
www.aicofindia.com

TENDER NOTICE
(Ref: Estt/HO Delhi/Empanelment/No.1466/2023)

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. intends to create a panel of reputed agencies for supplying various types of stationery items.

For detailed information, please logon to AIC website **www.aicofindia.com** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in/** titled as **"Tender Notice for empanelment of agencies for supplying stationery items".**

Interested eligible parties may submit their bids electronically through E-bidding portal **https://aicofindia.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/**

Last date for submitting bids will be 18-01-2024 upto 4:00 p.m.
Please visit our official website www.aicofindia.com for any updates regarding this tender notice.

HO/23-24/2A/21

Estate & Establishment Dept. **General Manager**
Date: 27-12-2023

KOLAR – CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., KOLAR
[P.B No. 63, N.H - 75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331, 7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 9007 /2023-24 **Date: 26.12.2023**

E - PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Kolar - Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Description of Material	Qty
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ammonia Based Refrigeration Unit for Ice-Cream Plant of Capacity 10000 LPD [Expandable to 15000 LPD] on Turnkey Basis at Milk Chilling Centre Chintamani. PART-2	01 Job

Access to E-tender Documents : 26.12.2023 to 25.01.2024 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 25.01.2024, 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 29.01.2024, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/-,
M.D.KOMUL

CENTRAL PULP & PAPER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SAHARANPUR, U.P. - 247001
(An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Govt. of India)

Inviting Application for Appointment of Director

In the Pay Scale of PML-14, **Rs. 144200-218200** (Pre-revised PB-4 Rs.37,400-67,000 + 10,000 GP)

1. Essential Qualifications:
(i) Educational Qualifications: Doctorate Degree with 1st Class Post Graduate in any branch of Science/Engineering.
(ii) Experience: 15 years relevant experience out of which five years' experience in a senior position in the pay scale of **Rs. 37,400- 67,000** plus **GP 8900 (pre-revised) (Revised PML-13A)** or analogous post as Departmental head in Production or Engineering or Research or Project Planning in Pulp & Paper Mill or in a reputed Research Institute in Pulp & Paper Technology in India or abroad.
2. Desirable Qualifications: Experience as Chief of similar research organization in an industrial complex or reputed research establishment in pulp and paper.
3. Age limit for Direct Recruitment: Not more than 55 years. For Departmental candidates the age is relaxable up to 58 years. The date of determining the age limit shall be the closing date prescribed for receipt of applications.
4. Mode of Recruitment: Direct Recruitment/ Deputation.
The Director shall be appointed by Govt. of India.
5. Interested candidates may submit his/her application in the prescribed format, and as per detailed instructions, which can be downloaded from this Department's website **https://dpiit.gov.in/** as well as from the CPPRI's **website www.cppri.res.in.**
6. The last date for the application to be submitted physically at the address given below **31/01/2024 till 5:30 PM.** Applications that are incomplete in any respect such as those not accompanied by the documents will liable to be rejected. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Shri Rajesh Rawat, Under Secretary (Paper),
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Udyog Bhawan (Room No. 355), New Delhi-110011

MANILA

'Philippines is not provoking conflict in South China Sea'

REUTERS

The Philippines is not provoking conflict in the South China Sea, its military spokesperson said, responding to China's accusation that Manila was encroaching on Beijing's territory. The two have traded charges over a series of maritime run-ins, including China allegedly ramming a ship carrying the Philippines' military chief. REUTERS

BAKU

Azerbaijan expels two French envoys over unworthy actions

AFP

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said two French diplomats had been ordered to leave over actions "incompatible with their diplomatic status". The move came amid tense relations between the countries as Baku accused France of being biased towards Armenia during the European-mediated peace talks with its arch-foe. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israel Army arrests senior Palestinian lawmaker Jarrar

REUTERS

Khalida Jarrar, a senior leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was arrested by the Israeli Army in the West Bank. The PFLP said the Army had launched a vast campaign to arrest its leaders. Jarrar is an advocate of women's rights and has lobbied for the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan expands Russian sanctions to stop tech being used for arms

REUTERS

Taiwan's Economy Ministry expanded a list of sanctioned goods for Russia and its ally Belarus, in order to prevent high-tech goods from being used for military purposes. Taiwan has condemned Russia's attack and already joined the Western-led sanctions effort, despite the minimal direct trade between the countries. REUTERS

Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

Israeli forces killed two Palestinians on Tuesday in a raid on a refugee camp near the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

The two – aged 17 and 31 – were shot dead in the Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron, the Ministry said.

The Army said it carried out a "counter-terrorism" operation in the town of Fawwar.

It said during the operation "assailants hurled rocks, Molotov cocktails and fireworks at Israeli security forces".

"The two men were killed just outside their homes," one of the residents said, asking to remain anonymous.

He also said that after the death of the first man, there were clashes in which five others were wounded and one of them later died.

Israel bombs central Gaza in bid to expand ground attack

Opening of a new battle zone threatens to bring a new wave of destruction and displacement; more than 20,900 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, killed so far

Associated Press
RAFAH

Israeli forces bombarded Palestinian refugee camps in central Gaza and issued orders telling residents to evacuate the area on Tuesday, signs that the military plans to expand its ground offensive into a third section of the besieged territory.

The opening of a potential new battle zone threatens to bring a new wave of destruction and displacement in a war that Israel has said will last for months as it vows to crush Hamas after its October 7 attack. Israeli forces have been engaged in heavy urban fighting in northern Gaza and the southern city of Khan Younis, driving Palestinians into ever-smaller parts of the territory in search of refuge.

Despite international pressure for a cease-fire and U.S. calls for a reduction in civilian casualties, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday warned that the fight "isn't close to finished."

No respite: A minibus carrying people fleeing central Gaza arrives in Rafah in southern Gaza Strip following an evacuation order. AFP

Devastating effect

Israel's offensive has been one of the most devastating military campaigns in recent history. More than 20,900 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed.

Residents of central Gaza on Tuesday described a night of shelling and airstrikes shaking the Nuseirat, Maghazi and Bureij camps. The camps are built-up towns, housing Palestinians driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war and their descendants – and now are also crowded with people who fled the north.

"The bombing was very intense," Radwan Abu Sheitta, a Palestinian teacher said by phone from his home in Bureij. "It seems they are approaching," he said of Israeli troops.

In the afternoon, the Israeli military issued an order calling on residents to evacuate a belt of territory the width of central Gaza, including Bureij, urging them to move to the nearby town of Deir al-Balah. Hamas' military arm, the Qassam Brigades, said its fighters struck two Israeli tanks east of Bureij.

Throughout the war, a constellation of Iranian-backed militia groups around the region have stepped up attacks in support of Hamas. So far, all sides have appeared to calibrate the violence to stay short of sparking an all-out conflict, but the fear is that an unexpected escalation could spiral out of control.

U.S. air strikes on pro-Iranian forces in Iraq kill at least one

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

U.S. air strikes targeting pro-Iranian forces in Iraq claimed at least one life and drew an angry response from Baghdad on Tuesday amid high regional tensions over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Iraq condemned as "a clear hostile act" the U.S. strikes, saying they had killed one member of the security forces and wounded 18 other people, including civilians.

Washington has repeatedly targeted sites used by Iran and its proxy forces in Iraq and Syria in response to dozens of attacks on American and allied forces since the October 7 outbreak of the Gaza war.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said "U.S. military conducted necessary and proportionate strikes on three facilities used by Kataeb Hezbollah and affiliated groups in Iraq".

Mr. Austin said "these precision strikes are a response to a series of attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-sponsored militias".

Rage simmers: Members of Kataeb Hezbollah carry the body of the man, killed in U.S. strikes, at his funeral in Baghdad on Tuesday. AFP

Hezbollah's attack

The attacks included a drone strike on Monday by Kataeb Hezbollah and affiliated groups on Arbil Air Base, Mr. Austin said. It wounded three U.S. military personnel, one critically, U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said.

Washington considers the Iran-backed Kataeb Hezbollah, or Hezbollah Brigades, as a terrorist organisation. The group forms part of the Hashed al-Shaabi coalition of former paramilitary forces integrated into Iraq's regular armed forces.

The latest drone attack on Monday against American forces was claimed by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a loose formation of armed groups affiliated with the Hashed al-Shaabi.

The U.S. – which led the 2003 invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein – now has about 2,500 soldiers deployed in Iraq and around 900 in Syria as part of efforts to prevent a resurgence of the jihadist Islamic State group.

Court order helps Imran's party retain its 'bat' electoral symbol

Press Trust of India
PESHAWAR

Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party partially won a legal battle when the Peshawar High Court on Tuesday suspended an order of the Election Commission to deprive the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf of its electoral symbol of a cricket 'bat'.

The Election Commission of Pakistan last week in a verdict rejected the intra-party polls of Khan's party and also stopped it from using 'bat' as the party's electoral symbol.

The party had challenged the verdict in the Peshawar High Court where after a detailed hearing, Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel suspended the ECP ruling until the final adjudication of the petition.

"It is the victory of justice and we hope that in the final decision, the court would permanently revoke the ECP ruling," said Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, who was elected as the party's new chairman in the intra-party polls held earlier this month.

Russian naval ship in Crimea damaged in Ukrainian air strike

Associated Press
KYIV

A Russian naval ship in Crimea was damaged in an air strike by Ukrainian forces, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The landing ship *Novocherkassk* was hit at a base in the city of Feodosia by plane-launched guided missiles, the Ministry said, adding that two Ukrainian fighter jets were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire during the attack.

Spate of attacks

Over the past several months, Ukrainian forces have conducted attacks around Crimea, mostly with sea drones. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy credits those attacks with allowing Ukraine to restore navigation in the Black Sea and allowing the export of millions of tons of grain.

The Russia-appointed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said one person was killed in the Tuesday attack. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu briefed Russian President Vladimir Putin about the attack.

Sweden's NATO bid gets Turkiye's first nod

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

A key committee in the Turkish parliament on Tuesday gave the green-light for Sweden's NATO membership, clearing another hurdle in the Nordic country's accession process in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year.

The Turkish parliament's foreign affairs committee approved Sweden's NATO membership 19 months after it submitted the plan.

The move paves the way for a vote by the full Parliament, where President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's alliance has a majority. It was not immediately clear when it would be.

Sport

Sharvaanica becomes champion in two formats at Asian Youth Chess

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Eight-year-old A.S. Sharvaanica has become the champion in two formats of the Asian Youth Chess Championships held from December 13 to 22 at Al Ain in the UAE.

She secured gold in the U-8 rapid and blitz categories, and silver in the U-8 classical category.

Lauding her achievement, her head coach at the Hatsun Chess Academy, Grand Master (GM) Vishnu Prasanna, said, "Sharvaanica is extremely ambitious. She has consistently performed excellently in every tournament, thanks to her never-give-up attitude. We are happy to see our players winning medals at international chess tournaments year after year.

Prolific: Sharvaanica bagged two gold and one silver medal.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We will continue to show our patronage to the sport train more players and help them reach greater heights."

The 25th Asian Youth Chess Championships witnessed the participation, across age groups, of 42 players from 21 countries.

Vidit, Erigaisi among leaders; Bharath shines

Rakesh Rao

Vidit Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi won four out of five rounds to be among the leaders at the end of an action packed opening day of the 13-round World rapid chess championship in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Tuesday.

Magnus Carlsen was part of the five-player leaders' group. Others are Bulgaria's Ivan Cheparinov and China's Yu Yangyi. The Chinese beat S. L. Narayanan in the day's final round. H.S. Bharath, seeded a distant 114, stayed unbeaten against five higher rated rivals to hold the sixth spot in a field of 202 players. In the 11-round women's section, R. Vaishali shared the second spot at 3.5 points from four rounds.

The standings (Indians) after Day One: Open (after five rounds): 2. Arjun Erigaisi (4.5), 5. Vidit Gujrathi (4.5), 6. S. H. Bharath (4), 16. Sandipan Chanda (4), 20. Nihal Sarin (3.5), 21. S. L. Narayanan (3.5), 33. M. Pranesh (3.5), 36. R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5), 61. Aravindh Chithambaram (3), 71. D. Gukesh (3), 83. B. Adhiban (3), 87. Mitrabha Guha (2.5), 103. Karthik Venkataraman (2.5), 105. V. Pranav (2.5), 116. Aditya Mittal (2.5), 143. Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2), 159. Raunak Sadhwani (2), Women (after four rounds): 6. R. Vaishali (3.5 points), 15. K. Humpy (3), 19. Padmini Rout (3), 42. Soumya Swaminathan (2.5), 48. D. Harika (2), 55. Divya Deshmukh (2), 56. Rakshitta Ravi (2), 61. N. Priyanka (2), 68. M. Varshini Sahiti (2), 69. V. Sarayu (2), 80. B. Savitha Shri (1.5).

Minakshi takes on Gitika for the title; Simranjit stuns Manisha

NATL. BOXING

Sports Bureau

Minakshi upset former World championships silver medallist Manju Rani 5-0 to enter the 48kg final in the National women's boxing championships at the Gautam Buddha University Sports Complex in Greater Noida on Tuesday.

Minakshi, a 2022 Asian silver medallist in 52kg, will take on former World youth champion Gitika in the title clash.

Close win

Worlds medallist Simranjit Kaur edged past Manisha Moun, another Worlds medallist in 57kg, 4-3 following bout review to reach the 60kg final.

Sonia Lather beat Mandeep Kaur 4-1 to set up a summit clash with Sakshi Chaudhary, who bested Sovi Jajo 5-0 in the other semifinal.

The results (semifinals):
48kg: Gitika (Har) bt Nivedita Karki (Utk) 4-3; Minakshi (AIP) bt Manju Rani (RSPB) 5-0.
50kg: Anamika (RSPB) bt Maibam Rosemary Chanu (Man) RSC-R2; Kalpana (Har) bt Ekta Saroj (Pun) 5-0.
52kg: Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) bt Bhupali Hazarika (Asm) RSC-R2; Shivnder Kaur Sidhu (AIP) bt Simran Verma (Mah) ABD-R3.
54kg: Sonia (UP) bt Darsana (AIP) 4-1; Shiksha (RSPB) bt Hetal Dama (Guj) 5-0.
57kg: Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Mandeep Kaur (Pun) 4-1; Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Sovi Jajo (Man) 5-0.
60kg: Jaismine Lamboria (SSCB) bt Menka Devi (HP) 5-0; Simranjit Kaur (Pun) bt Manisha Moun (Har) 4-3.
63kg: Prachi (Har) bt Niharika Gonella (Tel) 5-0; Sonu (AIP) bt Rinky Sharma (UP) 5-0.
66kg: Arundhati Choudhary (SSCB) bt Sanju (Nag) 5-0; Ankushita Boro (Asm) bt Deepika (HP) 5-0.
70kg: Shalakha Singh Sansanwal (Del) bt Khushi (Pun) 4-0; Lalita (Raj) bt Anupana (RSPB) 5-0.
75kg: Nandini (RSPB) bt Komal (Pun) 4-1; Pooja Rani (Har) bt Deepika (UP) 5-0.
81kg: Lalfakmawii Ralte (Miz) bt Sushma (AIP) 4-1; Saweety Boora (Har) bt Bhagyabati Kachari (Asm) 5-0.
+81kg: Nupur (RSPB) bt Elura Borgohain (Asm) 5-0; Ritika (Har) bt Monika (AIP) 4-1.

TALL ORDER

If Proteas play two Tests a year how will Rabada reach 400?: Ntini

AFP

If the Proteas play only two Tests a year, he can never surpass Dale Steyn's record of 439 wickets, reckoned Makhaya Ntini on Tuesday. "He is already up there (among greats). When you talk about those guys, when you talk about those bowlers, they have passed the 400-mark and KG (Rabada) is chasing the 300-mark," he said.

SUCCESSION PLANS

Warner names Marcus Harris as replacement for Test opening slot

AP

David Warner named Marcus Harris to replace him as Australia's opener in red-ball cricket. "It's a tough one. It's obviously up to the selectors. But from my position, I feel like the person who's been there for a while in the background. I think Harry's been that person. He's toured; he's going to have that chance."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Roy Krishna wins it for Odisha against Punjab

ISL

Roy Krishna's strike in the 21st minute helped Odisha FC pip Punjab FC 1-0 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Juggernauts are third on the table with 21 points from 11 matches while Punjab is 11th with just eight points from 12 games.
The result: Punjab FC 0 lost to Odisha FC 1 (Roy Krishna 21).

BIG WIN

Paltans dominate proceedings against Pirates

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan put up a dominating display to earn a massive 46-28 win over Patna Pirates at the SDAT Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Chennai, in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match on Tuesday. Pankaj Mohite was the star of the show as he brought up a Super 10, while Abinesh Nadarajan finished with a High 5.

Rahul stands firm even as Rabada's five-for stymies India

The visiting team finishes the truncated opening day on 208 for eight after being 121 for six at one stage; South Africa's debutant left-arm speedster Burger impresses with a couple of wickets; Jadeja misses out with upper back spasms

INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

Shining stars: Rahul continued his good tidings with the venue playing percentage cricket. Rabada had Kohli caught at the wicket. AFP & PTI

The weather here is mirroring cricket. Even Nostradamus may struggle to predict how it would go.

The forecast had been grim going into the first Test at the SuperSport Park, after a Christmas day that saw virtually incessant rain. But after a delayed a start on Tuesday, under clouds that didn't look too menacing, the sky turned blue, much to the delight of an excellent holiday crowd.

What followed was some absorbing cricket on day one of a much-anticipated series between South Africa and India. But late in the afternoon, the skies opened up and covers had to be brought in.

The umpires had no option but to call an early end to the day, at the end of which, India, after being put in, was 208 for eight. The score would have been a lot worse but for a superb innings by K.L. Rahul, who seems to love this beautiful venue; he had scored a brilliant hundred in 2021-22, opening the innings, which helped India score a memorable win.

The elegant batter from Karnataka, who also will have to don the keeping gloves, was batting on 70 (105b, 10x4, 2x6). He had come it 92 for four and his grit, determination and skills, and some spirited support from Shardul Thakur (24) ensured that the Indian innings didn't fold up too quickly against a formidable South African pace attack spearheaded by Kagiso Rabada.

Shardul, who has also in the past proved his worth lower down the order - remember the great Gabba Test - and Rahul put on 43 valuable runs after R. Ashwin, who made his way into the eleven after Ravindra Jadeja complained of upper back spasms, became the fourth victim of Rabada.

The magnificent quick completed a well-deserved five-wicket haul when he had Shardul caught behind. He may not have got the preparation he wanted with the white ball because of the heel injury, but all that didn't matter, as he took the new ball and settled into neat line.

India's openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma looked prepared to play the waiting game, but the skipper had to make his way back to the dressing room in the fifth over of the day; his pull shot – among the best in the business – cost him dearly, as he was caught by debutant left-arm seamer Nandre Burger at fine-leg.

The day then got even better for Burger, as he induced an outside edge from Jaiswal, who had shown glimpses of his ability to play pleasing strokes during his 37-ball stay, and then had Shubman Gill caught behind on review.

Virat Kohli (38, 64b, 5x4) and Shreyas Iyer (31, 50b, 3x4, 1x6) then did the repairing job, putting on 68 for the fourth wicket, after both had been dropped. Rabada accounted for both of them, cleaning up Shreyas with a ball that nipped back sharply and then had Kohli edging one that moved away beautifully. It was great stuff from the Proteas star. Now, it was up to Rahul to weather the storm. He did that superbly. His Karnataka teammate Prasidh Krishna is making his Test debut.

Meanwhile, South African captain Temba Bavuma, who left the field in the first session with a hamstring strain, will be undergoing medical evaluations to determine if he could continue playing in the Test.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Verreynne b Burger 17 *(37b, 4x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Burger b Rabada 5 *(14b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill c Verreynne b Burger 2 *(12b)*, Virat Kohli c Verreynne b Rabada 38 *(64b, 5x4)*, Shreyas Iyer b Rabada 31 *(50b, 3x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul (batting) 70 *(105b, 10x4, 2x6)*, R. Ashwin c (sub) Mulder b Rabada 8 *(11b, 2x4)*, Shardul Thakur c Elgar b Rabada 24 *(33b, 3x4)*, Jasprit Bumrah b Jansen 1 *(19b)*, Mohammed Siraj (batting) 0 *(10b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-8, w-2, nb-1): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 59 overs): 208.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Rohit, 4.6 overs), 2-23 (Jaiswal, 9.4), 3-24 (Gill, 11.1), 4-92 (Shreyas, 26.6), 5-107 (Kohli, 30.6), 6-121 (Ashwin, 34.6), 7-164 (Shardul, 46.2), 8-191 (Bumrah, 54.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Rabada 17-3-44-5, Jansen 15-1-52-1, Burger 15-4-50-2, Coetzee 12-1-53-0.

Toss: South Africa.

Rahul handles tough situations well: Rathour

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

If India wasn't blown away by Kagiso Rabada & Co. on the opening day of the first Test here, much of the credit goes to K.L. Rahul, who played a remarkable innings.

India's batting coach Vikram Rathour, not surprisingly, was profuse in his praise of Rahul's knock (70 batting). "Rahul is turning out to be man of crisis for us," Rathour said. "In tough situations, he is the guy who handles it well for us. He was clear with his game plans, defended the right balls and attacked the right ones."

Rathour said batting was always going to be challenging. "The weather was an issue," he said. "The wicket was under cover for a day or more. It was always going to be challenging as batting group. We would have loved to have couple of more wickets in hand. But we have done reasonably well."

When Rixon sledged Pollock and regretted right away

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

Graeme Pollock was 41 when South Africa XI took on Australia XI in the first Unofficial Test at Durban in 1985. That was the time when the only international cricket South Africa got was from the rebel tours, as the country had been banned by the ICC because of its apartheid policy.

When Pollock played and missed a few times, wicketkeeper Steve Rixon sledged him. But the great South African batter went on to make 108.

Mike Haysman was one of the hapless Australian fielders who watched Pollock turn the clock back in great style. "From the moment Rixon started to sledge him, every single ball hit the middle of Pollock's bat," Haysman told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday. "And he was out to a Kim Hughes' screaming catch in the covers. A lot of the bowlers didn't speak to Rixon ever again."

Haysman is one of those talented cricketers who never could make it to the international level. He had been a prolific scorer in the extremely competitive Sheffield Shield (First Class) for South Australia after making a hundred on debut against Queensland.

Haysman. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When an opportunity came, he wasn't aware. "I was on standby for an Ashes tour, but I wasn't officially told, and in the meantime I had been approached for the rebel tour," said Haysman, a popular voice on cricket now. "I hadn't already signed up, but I wasn't sure what the selectors thought about me. So, it was a bit of a tricky situation all around and of a communication issue, which tends to happen in cricket."

He feels South Africa needed such tours to keep the international game alive in the country at that time. "South Africa had some fabulous players even then, like Clive Rice, who was the captain, Garth Le Raux and Pollock," he says. "I also had a good time with the bat; I was the leading scorer on the 1986-87 tour (with 738 runs at an average of 61.50)."

He now has strong association with South Africa, where he has been a regular commentator for several years. "I love this country; it is beautiful but it has problems, as does every country," he says. "I love animals, and Africa is the best continent for wildlife."

About the India-South Africa Test series, he wishes it was longer than just two matches. "I would have loved five matches," said Haysman, who enjoys watching K.L. Rahul bat. "Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah are the other Indian cricketers that I like a lot."

Labuschagne frustrates Pakistan on rain-affected opening day

PAKISTAN IN AUS

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Close shave: Smith reversed an lbw decision on field off Shaheen but his luck ran out soon. AFP

A stubborn Marnus Labuschagne weathered a storm to help steer Australia to 187 for three on a rain-disrupted opening day of the second Test in Melbourne Tuesday against a probing and resilient Pakistan attack.

At stumps, he was unbeaten on 44 off 120 balls and Travis Head was not out on nine after nearly three hours' play were lost to rain.

Pakistan's bowlers found plenty of movement in the overcast conditions and were rewarded with the wickets of David Warner (38), Usman Khawaja (42) and Steve Smith (26).

Pakistan captain Shan Masood won the toss and opted to field first on a pitch suited to the seamers.

Warner was dropped on two by Abdullah Shafique, who put down a regulation catch at second slip.

His luck ran out with a rash shot off part-time spinner Agha Salman in the final over before lunch, with Babar Azam holding a catch at slip.

Khawaja hit a boundary off the second ball he faced and looked destined for a big score before Hasan Ali, back in the team after being overlooked for Perth, drew an edge that Salman took well in the slips.

With dark clouds overhead, the lights were turned on mid-afternoon with Labuschagne and Smith in survival mode as the bowlers turned the screws before the rain arrived.

Smith, who was given out lbw on 19 after a big shout from Afridi, but a review showed the ball going high.

He was less fortunate against Jamal soon after. The umpire ignored an appeal from wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan for a catch, but Pakistan reviewed and it showed a faint edge, ending a 147-ball partnership.

The scores: Australia 187/3 in 66 overs (David Warner 38, Usman Khawaja 42, Marnus Labuschagne 44 batting) vs. Pakistan. **Toss**: Pakistan.

Wood's hat-trick inspires Forest to victory over Newcastle

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reuters
NEWCASTLE

Hat-trick hero: Wood readies to dink the ball past Newcastle 'keeper Dubravka. GETTY IMAGES

Nottingham Forest striker Chris Wood scored a superb hat-trick against his former club Newcastle United at St James' Park on Tuesday to give his struggling side a much-needed 3-1 victory in the Premier League.

Forest's first win under new coach Nuno Espirito Santo lifted it to 16th in the table on 17 points, five above the relegation zone, while Newcastle's fourth defeat in its last five league games left it seventh on 29 points.

Newcastle took the lead in the 23rd minute when Alexander Isak won a penalty as he tried to spin away from Forest full back Ola Aina, and the Swedish striker stepped up to stroke home the spot-kick low to left of keeper Matt Turner.

Wood, who was loaned to Forest by Newcastle in January before being signed permanently, brought his side level just before the break with a close-range tap-in from Anthony Elanga's centre.

Forest's Morgan Gibbs-White flashed a header just wide and Elanga should have put the visitors ahead six minutes after the break, but his weak effort with the goal at his mercy was easily dealt with by Newcastle keeper Martin Dubravka.

Wood put Forest ahead in the 53rd minute with a brilliant solo effort from another counter-attack, dinking the ball past Dubravka with his left foot after a clever run.

He completed his hat-trick on the hour mark with another well-taken goal on the counter, rounding Dubravka and coolly slotting home to secure a well-deserved win.

The result: Newcastle 1 (Isak 23-pen) lost to Nottingham Forest 3 (Wood 45+1, 53, 60).

Our focus is on keeping the winning run and making it to the Paris Olympics: Ashwini

The Ashwini-Tanisha duo has been in a rich vein of form, clinching gold and silver in the Guwahati and Odisha Masters respectively

Equal partnership: Ashwini said there is no senior or junior on the court. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

BADMINTON

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The partnership with Tanisha Crasto, forged in January this year, has given Ashwini Ponnappa a new lease on life.

From going through 2022 without a women's doubles title (playing alongside Sikki Reddy), Ashwini has turned the corner this year - winning three tournaments and finishing runner-up twice.

The year has ended with Ashwini-Tanisha claiming the Yonex-Sunrise Guwahati Masters crown, and taking silver in the Yonex-Sunrise Odisha Masters.

Ashwini, 34, is pleased to be back in the top tier of international women's doubles.

"It feels great. It has been a while since I won tournaments. It's good to have a promising partnership. The work we're putting in is converting into wins. Without good results, it can be quite disheartening. It is very motivating to know that we're going in the right direction," Ashwini said at the launch ceremony of the 42nd Inter Unit PSPB badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

The key

With a world ranking of 24, Ashwini and Tanisha have a shot at making the cut for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The key is to keep the winning momentum going.

"Our focus is on continuing to improve and keep winning. We need to focus on every match we play from here on. If we do that, we have a good shot at making it to the Olympics," Ashwini said.

All about balance

Ashwini is a full 14 years elder to Tanisha, but is not keen on the "senior" tag. The trick to success, Ashwini said, is having the right balance in the partnership.

"There is no senior or junior on the court. It's an equal partnership where we win and lose together. Tanisha is very expressive on court, which is nice.

"It is important for me to stay calm because Tanisha has a lot of energy. We can then have the right balance," Ashwini said.

daCunha/AB/922

34 probables for women's camp

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

A core group of 34 players will take part in a senior women's hockey coaching camp starting here on Wednesday, aiming to bolster preparations for the Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi and the Hockey5s World Cup.

The Indian players will be joining the camp after a short break from the trip to Spain after playing against Belgium, Germany, Ireland and the hosts in the 5 Nations Tournament. The Olympic Qualifiers are set to be played in Ranchi from January 13-19 in which India is placed in Pool B along with New Zealand, Italy and the United States of America. The Pool A consists of Germany, Japan, Chile and the Czech Republic. "The 5 Nations Tournament served as a good litmus test ahead of the Olympic Qualifiers," said Janneke Schopman.

India squad: Goalkeepers: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Bansari Solanki. **Defenders:** Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Jyoti Chhatri, Mahima Chaudhary. **Midfielders:** Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Mariana Kujur, Sonika, Neha, Baljeet Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Ajmina Kujur. **Forwards:** Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, Vandana Katariya, Sharmila Devi, Deepika, Sangita Kumari, Mumtaz Khan, Sunelita Toppo, Beauty Dungdung.

Jockey Suraj Narredu climbs yet another peak in his illustrious career

RACING

Vinayak M. Zodge
MUMBAI

Champion jockey Suraj Narredu reached yet another pinnacle in his illustrious riding career by securing his 100th Classic race victory. This remarkable feat took place as he guided Long Lease, trained by his brother Rajesh, to victory in the prestigious Calcutta Oaks at Kolkata on Tuesday, December 26.

The 38-year-old seasoned saddle artist earned his licence as a professional jockey in July 2002 at the Bangalore Turf Club. He previously achieved a significant milestone in 2019 when he notched up his 2000th career win.

Suraj Narredu.

His journey began with a Classic victory astride Coral Gables at the Hyderabad 2000 Guineas. Recently, this trainer-jockey duo won the Indian 2000 Guineas through Synthesis on Sunday (Dec. 24) at Mumbai. Suraj expressed gratitude on Tuesday, stating, "I must say that I am truly blessed to have a great family supporting me. I consider myself fortunate to have ridden such exceptional horses for owners and trainers, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to them all."

> I consider myself fortunate to have ridden such exceptional horses for owners and trainers, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to them all
> SURAJ

Suraj's father, Satish, a former jockey turned trainer, shared his sentiments with *The Hindu*, emphasizing the role of dedication, determination, and devotion in Suraj's success. "God has been kind, and Suraj's commitment has paid off. The entire family takes pride in his landmark achievement," he remarked.

Uncle Malesh, also a jockey-turned-trainer, attributed Suraj's success to his unwavering work ethic and professionalism.

"It's a result of Suraj's hard work and dedication. He is a true professional, and with maturity, he keeps improving. His recent experience riding in Australia has added to his confidence and prowess in handling his mounts," he commented.

ACB unlikely to give NOCs for Mujeeb, Naveen and Farooqi

Press Trust of India
KABUL

Afghanistan Cricket Board is unlikely to offer No Objection Certificates to Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen Ul Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi for the next two years, putting their participation in the Indian Premier League 2024 season in doubt. The board has decided to delay the annual contracts for year 2024 for these players.

Recognition

Honouring the stars: Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, Home Minister G. Parameshwar, Sports Minister B. Nagendra, among others, pose with National and International sportspersons who were felicitated by the Karnataka Olympic Association at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INBRIEF

Giants continue sparkling form to pip Khiladis

Gujarat Giants continue their sparkling form as it defeated Mumbai Khiladis 34-30 to register its second straight win in the ongoing Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack on Tuesday. Abhinandan Patil was the star of the match for the winning side with 14 points. Faizankha Pathan, Suyash Gargate and Shubham Thorat also contributed to Gujarat's victory by staying on the mat for more than 5 minutes.

Reshma runs away with the 10,000m gold

Shivaji University's Reshma Dattu Kevate won the 10,000m gold in the National inter-university women's athletics championships which began here on Wednesday. The women's and men's championships are being held separately this year. And while the men will first have the zonals and then the inter-zone Nationals (in Chennai, January), the women directly compete in the all-India meet.

The results (winners only): 10,000m: Reshma Dattu Kevate (Shivaji Uni.) 33:32.33s.

Pole vault: Nidhi (MDU) 3.50m.

Barcelona's Putellas to undergo knee surgery

Barcelona women's captain and twice Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas will undergo knee surgery, her club said on Tuesday. The Spain forward had to leave the national team training camp in Madrid last month because of a knee injury, which also kept her out of recent matches with Barcelona.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 1st T20I, Prime Video, 11.40 a.m.

South Africa vs India: 1st Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 p.m.

Ultimate Kho-Kho: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 8.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m. onwards (Thursday)

Australia vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Moving an event from the rare to the commonplace

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

During India's inaugural Test against South Africa, in Durban, some of us in the media box were among the first non-Whites to watch a Test in that country from behind the bowler's arm. Later Nelson Mandela was to describe to us how he watched his favourite cricketer, Australia's Neil Harvey, from a cage square of the wicket.

India began well, getting a wicket with the first ball, Jimmy Cook caught Sachin Tendulkar bowled Kapil Dev. The Test was drawn, but South Africa won in Port Elizabeth (now called Gqeberha) to take the series. In three decades since, India have not won a series there after seven more tours. Their much-vaunted batting was dismissed for 100 and 66 in two innings in Durban '96. They finally won a Test in Johannesburg a decade later, Sreesanth's five in the first innings dismissing South Africa for 84.

Three decades might not seem like a long time when you consider it took India seven to win their first series in Australia. But that was a different India then, an India which saw a drawn Test away from home as a victory of sorts, an India content to be lambs abroad if they could be tigers at home.

The favourites

Now India are the No. 1 Test-playing country (South Africa are fourth), and a team that considers a draw akin to a defeat. In nearly three years since January 2021, they have won more matches abroad than they have lost. And when skipper Temba Bavuma says "their bowling attack nullifies the advantage we have," he acknowledges that India go into the two-Test series as the favourites.

Why do India have a poor series record in South Africa? Some of their finest-ever players, many who would find a place in an all-time XI have competed in that period. The Sachin Tendulkar generation, with its batting and bowling greats somehow couldn't crack it just as they couldn't crack Australia either. One poor session of play or an issue with left-arm pace bowling or defensive cricket or improper team balance or a combination of some of these has stymied them.

Two years ago, it was thought that India had their best chance. They had won two successive series in Australia, were led by the aggressive Kohli, had a bowling attack spearheaded by Jasprit Bumrah, and began by winning the opening Test at Centurion despite losing a day to rain. They went into the decider at Cape Town 1-1. But a second innings batting collapse (Rishabh Pant made an unbeaten 100 as they folded for 198) and a return of the left-arm seamer nightmare as Marco Jansen claimed seven wicket in the match ended the dream.

Skewed significance

In a two-Test engagement ('series' is hardly appropriate for just two matches), the opening Test assumes a skewed significance. The team that wins cannot lose the rubber. In the early days, defensive Indian captains hoped to draw the first Test and build on that.

Rohit Sharma is a modern leader who would like to get his punch in first. And if he succeeds, he will continue that way, and not get defensive to sit on the lead. It is an attitude South Africa favours too, which should make for interesting matches, weather permitting.

The countries deserve more than just two Tests in an engagement; they have never played a five-Test series which is increasingly becoming rarer outside the Ashes or India's series against England and Australia.

South Africa have officially asked their players to play in their T20 franchise tournament SA20 which clashes with their next Test engagement (two Tests) against New Zealand in the championship cycle. A hint to the future perhaps?

A win abroad overcomes a mental barrier. The series following the one where India won in Australia for the first time, they won again. That is why it is important for India to win in South Africa.

That achievement then moves the event from the rare to the commonplace. Coach Rahul Dravid, who made four tours of that country knows only too well the extent of the task.